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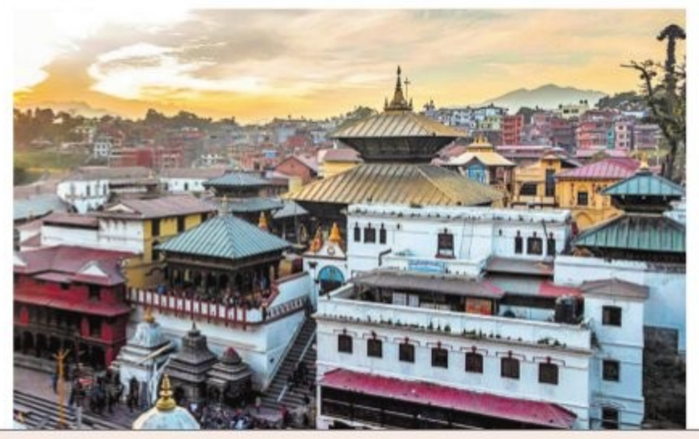

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NEPAL'S ANTI-CORRUPTION BODY SEALS PASHUPATI TEMPLE OVER MISSING GOLD

The government ordered an inquiry after some reports said that 10 kilogrammes of gold were missing from an ornament weighing 103 kg

ORNAMENT TAKEN FOR EXAMINATION

The ornament called Jalhari was installed around a Shivling inside the temple during the Maha Shivaratri festival last year. Temple official said the ornament was taken by the anti-graft body to determine its quality and weight. Devotees were not allowed to enter the temple premises on Sunday afternoon and sources said the temple will remain closed until midnight

SOLDIERS DEPLOYED AT TEMPLE PREMISES

- The government ordered the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority to begin probe after questions were raised in Parliament on reports that substantial chunks of gold were missing from the ornament
- Dozens of security personnel, including Nepal Army soldiers, were deployed at the premises of the temple, which is the oldest in Kathmandu

1692

WHEN THE PRESENT STRUCTURE OF THE TEMPLE WAS BUILT

CHENNAI ▪ MADURAI ▪ VIJAYAWADA ▪ BENGALURU ▪ KOCHI ▪ HYDERABAD ▪ VISAKHAPATNAM ▪ COIMBATORE ▪ KOZHIKODE ▪ THIRUVANANTHAPURAM ▪ BELAGAVI ▪ BHUBANESWAR ▪ SHIVAMOGGA ▪ MANGALURU ▪ TIRUPATI ▪ TIRUCHY ▪ TIRUNELVELI ▪ SAMBALPUR ▪ HUBBALLI ▪ DHARMAPURI ▪ KOTTAYAM ▪ KANNUR ▪ VILLUPURAM ▪ KOLLAM ▪ TADEPALLIGUDEM ▪ NAGAPATTINAM ▪ THRISSUR ▪ KALABURAGI

Strategic partnership to boost India-Egypt ties

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

INDIA and Egypt on Sunday elevated their relationship to a 'strategic partnership' after Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi held extensive talks on enhancing political as well as security cooperation between the two countries.

Apart from the pact on strategic partnership, three other MoUs were also inked during PM Modi's visit to Egypt.

"An agreement to elevate the bilateral relationship to a 'strategic partnership' was signed by the two leaders. Besides, three memoranda of understanding were signed in agriculture, archaeology and antiquities and competition law," Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra said.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi confers Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the highest state honour of Egypt 'Order of the Nile' in Cairo on Sunday | PIB

Notably, Modi was conferred 'The Order of the Nile', Egypt's highest state honour reserved for heads of states, crown princes, and vice presidents who offer humanity invaluable services.

"It is with great humility that I accept the Order of the Nile. I thank the government and the people of Egypt for this honour. It indicates that warmth and affection they have towards India and the people of our nation," the prime minister said.

The Prime Minister held talks with President el-Sisi at Al-Ittihadiya Palace in Cairo, during which the two leaders discussed ways to enhance political and security cooperation, defence collaboration, trade and investment ties, scientific and academic exchanges.

They also agreed that the newly established 'India Unit' in Egyptian Cabinet would be a useful tool in steering bilateral collaboration.

"My visit to Egypt was historic. It will add renewed vigour to India-Egypt relations and benefit our people," Modi tweeted. He invited el-Sisi to attend G-20 Summit in New Delhi in September.

Army frees 12 militants in Manipur to end stand-off

Leaves with captured arms after being stopped by 1,500-strong mob

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

THE Army released 12 militants in Manipur in the wee hours of Sunday to end a standoff with a 1,500-strong mob led by women. The mob had surrounded the Army column at Itham village in Imphal East district and prevented the forces from leaving with the captured militants.

A defence ministry statement said the forces took a 'mature decision' to avoid collateral damage, which showed the 'humane face' of the Army.

The 12 militants belong to the Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup (KYKL), an Imphal valley-based insurgent group. The forces had detained them during an operation in the village that was carried out following specific intelligence inputs.

"Specific search after laying cordon was undertaken to avoid hardships to other locals. In the ensuing operation, 12 KYKL cadres were apprehended along with arms, ammunition and war-like stores," the defence ministry statement said.

It said the rebels apprehended included a self-styled 'Lt Col' Moirangthem Tamba alias Uttam, the alleged mastermind of the ambush on the personnel of Dogra regiment in 2015.

"A mob of approximately 1,200-1,500, led by women and a local leader, immediately surrounded the target area and prevented security forces from going ahead with the operation. Repeated appeals to the aggressive mob to let the security forces carry on with operation as per law did not yield any positive result," the defence ministry statement said.

The Army said keeping in view the sensitivity of use of a kinetic force against a large irate mob and likely casualties, a considered decision was taken to hand over all the 12 rebels to the local leader.

Subsequently, the personnel lifted the cordon and left the area with the weapons and war-like stores recovered from the insurgents.

"The mature decision on the part of the Operational Commander shows the humane face of the Indian Army to avoid any collateral damage during the ongoing unrest in Manipur," the statement said.

The Army appealed to people in Manipur to assist the security forces in maintaining law and order and to bring peace and stability.

Talk to locals, says Cong

Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday said the Centre must initiate dialogues with locals to earn their trust and restore peace. He said the process may take time but the govt should start listening to the communities | P9

Shah briefed on 'evolving' situation

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi / Guwahati

MANIPUR Chief Minister N Biren Singh on Sunday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah and briefed him about the latest situation in the state and the 'evolving' situation as well as changing equations with the community leaders who have been engaged in the ethnic conflict since May 3.

This comes a day after Shah chaired an all-party meeting in the national capital to discuss the Manipur situation.

Singh told Shah that he will reach out to all stakeholders.

Shah advised the Manipur leadership to work with more vigour so that there is complete peace. He also assured him that the Centre will take all possible steps to bring normalcy in the violence-hit state.

Manipur MP Leishemba Sanajaoba, Speaker Thokchom Satyabrata Singh, BJP's national spokesperson and Northeast coordinator Sambit Patra, and Intelligence Bureau chief Tapan Kumar Deka were also present in the meeting, which lasted about 45 minutes.

Gauhati HC stays election process of WFI

FIROZ MIRZA @ Chennai

IN a dramatic turn of events, the Gauhati High Court on Sunday stalled the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) election till the next date of hearing. The court has fixed July 17 as the date.

The Assam Wrestling Association, in its writ petition filed against the Indian Olympic Association-formed ad-hoc panel running the day-to-day affairs of the WFI and the sports ministry, contended that the state unit was entitled to be an affiliated member of the federation but was not granted the same despite repeated requests.

The returning officer appointed to conduct the elections had earlier rejected the Assam unit's claim. It had also fixed June 25 as the last date for receiving the ames for the electoral college for elections on July 11. It is understood that a request was made to the Gauhati HC Chief Justice for urgent consideration of the matter and he constituted a special bench of Justice Nani Tagia to take up the matter on Sunday despite it being a holiday. P11

It could be PDA vs NDA in 2024 LS polls

RAMASHANKAR @ Patna

THE coalition of Opposition parties formed to fight the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance in 2024 Lok Sabha election could be named Patriotic Democratic Alliance (PDA), sources said on Sunday.

The name was proposed by CPI general secretary D Raja during the meeting of Opposition parties in Patna on Friday. No other participants opposed the name proposed by Raja, Bihar Congress spokesperson Asit Nahti Tiwari said.

However, Opposition leaders are expected to suggest more names before their next meeting in Shimla next month, when a final decision will be taken on regarding the name.

In all, 32 leaders from 15 parties attended the meeting in Patna, convened by Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, during which Opposition parties resolved to take on the BJP unitedly, even as fissures emerged with the Aam Admi Party asserting that it would be difficult for it to be part of any such gathering in future till the Congress publicly supports it on the ordinance issue.

> They (BJP) understand there is discontent across the country which is growing and the Karnataka election results mark the beginning of the defeat of the BJP
>
> D Raja, CPI general secretary

Meanwhile, former deputy chief minister and BJP MP Sushil Kumar Modi accused the state government of removing more than 100 hoardings erected by his party workers and intimidating them ahead of the grand conclave of Opposition leaders.

Don't take opinions of only elite to shape B'luru: Group to DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN the backdrop of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar making efforts to restore the image of Bengaluru, the Environment Support Group (ESG), a Bengaluru-based non-governmental organisation, has written to him, urging him to institute a process to ensure the city is governed and administered democratically.

The group, which has environmentalists like Leo Saldanha, pointed out, "Karnataka has placed trust in the past in a network of rich and famous personalities drawn from IT/BT sector, film and entertainment industry, real estate developers and the like to imagine what is right for Bengaluru. This initiative which took the form of Bangalore Agenda Task Force in the S M Krishna-led administration during 1999-2004 resulted in privileging elite interest and diverting financial resources to projects that favoured their imaginations thus denying the masses their rightful benefits."

The letter stated that the B S Yediyurappa government too attempted a similar approach through Agenda for Bengaluru Infrastructure and Development Taskforce and the Plan Bengaluru 2020. But that resulted in skewing resources -- financial, human and material -- to serve the cause of the elite.

They pointed out that Shivakumar has pushed ahead with creating forums to seek views of the elite in shaping the future of the metropolis knowing well that this is undemocratic and unconstitutional. The ESG batted for the constitution of the Metropolitan Planning Committee to take all necessary measures to ensure democratic governance of Bengaluru through an elected council.

WAITING OUT THE STORM

Fishing boats secured at a jetty, in anticipation of heavy rain, at Sultan Battery in Mangaluru on Sunday. Fishing is banned in the coastal areas of Udupi and Dakshina Kannada districts due to the monsoon | EXPRESS

17 resorts, restaurants demolished at Hampi

AMIT S UPADHYE @ Hubballi

AUTHORITIES in Hampi have brought down 17 resorts and restaurants in and around the heritage area of Hampi over the last one week. All these resorts were running despite notices served to them three months ago.

They were running within the Unesco-protected zone and buffer areas. The operations were carried out in Sanapur, Anegundi in Koppal and Kamalapur and Kaddirampur areas in Vijayanagara districts.

The authorities said that apart from homestays, resorts and hotels, several hospitality structures that were constructed in front of many houses were also razed. The government has already offered alternative land and planned a tourism zone at a village in Koppal district. CONTINUED ON: P4

Man drinks friend's blood for revenge

ENS @ Chikkaballapur

A man took his friend to an isolated place and tried to drink his blood after making a small cut on his neck. The incident occurred at Suddapalli Cross of Chintamani taluk in Kolar district, and the police arrested two persons in this connection.

The accused, Vijay Kumar, hailing from Bathalapalle, and Maresh from Madanpalle, reside in Chintamani town and are both drivers.

Sources said that recently, Vijay came to know that Maresh allegedly had a relationship with his wife. He wanted to avenge the humiliation and hatched plans to kill his friend. Accordingly, he invited Maresh, took him to an isolated place, made a small incision on the neck and drank the blood oozing from the wound. As he was performing the act, he asked Maresh to videograph the entire incident on the mobile phone.

The incident occurred three days ago. The police arrested Vijay and another person. Maresh is out of danger.

EXPRESS READ

Nirmala questions Obama over remarks

NEW DELHI: Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday slammed former US president Barack Obama's statement about minority rights in India, saying his remarks were surprising as six Muslim-majority countries had faced US "bombing" in his tenure. She said PM Narendra Modi has received awards from 13 countries.

Dr Raj's kin Suraj seriously injured in road accident

MYSURU: Kannada matinee idol Dr Rajkumar's relative and actor Suraj Kumar aka Dhruwan was seriously injured in a road accident on Mysuru-Gundlupet highway near Begur on Saturday. According to sources, doctors have amputated his right leg which was damaged in the accident. Suraj was riding his bike when he was hit by a tipper.

Flash floods wreak havoc in Himachal

Shimla: Flash floods triggered by a cloudburst in Himachal's Solan and Hamirpur districts and heavy rain in Shimla, Mandi and Kullu on Sunday killed two persons, damaged crops, homes and vehicles, and washed away livestock, the State Emergency Operation Centre said. The state is estimated to have losses to the tune of ₹78 lakh in the past 24 hours, officials said | P8

THE MORE THE MERRIER

K'taka's lion-tailed macaque population highest in world

A study finds that the number of LTMs in Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada has been stable | EXPRESS

SUBHASH CHANDRA NS
@ Karwar (Uttara Kannada)

KARNATAKA has the world's largest population of lion-tailed macaques (LTMs) with 41 groups of 730 individuals, according to a study by the Karnataka Forest Department and Coimbatore-based Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON).

The study gave a big boost to conservation efforts as it found that the population of LTMs in the Sharavathi Valley Lion-Tailed Macaque Sanctuary (SV-LTMS), spread across Shivamogga and Uttara Kannada districts, has been stable with more groups being added, as compared to the previous study. The earlier study in 2015 had put the population of LTMs at 30 groups with a little over 600 individuals.

The latest study was conducted in December 2022, covering Sirsi-Honnavara and Shivamogga forest divisions. Volunteers and forest department staff walked through 72 grid cells in the evergreen forests of the Western Ghats, which span north of the Sharavathi Valley Wildlife Sanctuary and south of the Aghanashini River Valley. "The study areas were Kyadagi and Siddapur forest ranges in the Sirsi Forest Division, Honnavar, Gersoppa, Bhatkala and Kumta Forest ranges in the Honnavar Forest Division, and Kogar and Kargal forest ranges of the Shivamogga Wildlife Division," said Vasanth Reddy, Conservator of Forests, Canara Circle, who initiated the study.

"It revealed that Uttara Kannada has been a significant and potential site for the conservation of LTMs, considering the sizable canopy and undisturbed habitat as compared to the north of Sharavathi," HN Kumara, Senior Principal Scientist, SACON, said.

He said the department's initiatives, like restoration of canopy and forests and insulating high-tension transmission lines that pass through forest areas of Gerusoppa and other places, have helped in the conservation of LTMs.

This is the first integrated LTM assessment exercise for the Sharavathi Valley Sanctuary, covering both Canara and Shivamogga circles. Earlier, the study focussed only on Canara circle. LTMs are the indicators of evergreen forests as they prefer canopy and are rarely seen on ground.

FOUR WEEKS ON, SIR MV TERMINAL AWAITS REPAIR

Authorities are waiting for aluminium sheets to fix false ceiling to arrive from Pune

Gaping holes in the ceiling at SMVT at Baiyappanahalli. Some parts of the truss and broken parts of the ceiling are still at the spot | EXPRESS

The aluminium sheets for the false ceiling will arrive from Pune. We need 150 sqm of the sheet material. It would be cut into sheets, each measuring 3.5m in length and 184 cm in width

A source

S LALITHA @Bengaluru

FOUR weeks after squalls brought down a portion of the false ceiling and the trusses supporting them at Sir M Visvesvaraya Terminal (SMVT) at Baiyappanahalli, no restoration measures have been undertaken, with Railway officials passing the buck regarding works or remedial steps taken to prevent a recurrence of another collapse.

TNIE visited SMVT Sunday and found gaping holes in the ceiling. Some parts of the truss and the broken parts of the ceiling are still at the spot and a stretch of it is barricaded.

A railway source said MVV Satyanarayana, contracted for the construction of the station, had been asked to carry out restoration work. Asked when it would be ready, he said, "The aluminium sheets for the false ceiling will arrive from Pune. We need 150 sqm of the sheet material. It would be cut into sheets, each measuring 3.5m in length and 184 cm in width."

Asked about preventive measures, the source said that strengthening work has been carried out on the roof portion after the mishap. Asked if the construction was poor, he ruled it out, saying, "There was gusty winds which impacted the structure," he said.

South Western Railway Zone CPRO, Aneesh Hegde told TNIE, "To prevent a recurrence, additional suspenders have been added to support the false ceiling. The design in the corners of the false ceiling is being tweaked to prevent high wind from shearing it."

"The roof has been designed to withstand high wind speeds of up to 125 kmph. What had happened should not have happened."

Bengaluru DRM, Shyam Singh said that an unprecedented high velocity gusty wind coupled with a storm damaged a portion of the false ceiling. "The damaged portion is being replaced and the restoration will be done soon," he said, adding that the construction and the materials used were of poor quality.

A battle against spitting, smoking

Bengaluru: RPF personnel and Railway staff are waging a daily battle to ensure passengers do not spoil SMVT's look because of their unhygienic behaviour. A police personnel told TNIE, "We book passengers under the Tobacco Act Section (4) and (6). The fines we impose are as follows - Rs 300 for spitting or smoking, Rs 200 for littering and Rs 500 for urinating. We have collected Rs 11,200 as fine up to June 20 and have booked 44 cases." In May, Rs 20,800 was collected as penalty and 84 cases were filed while Rs 18,300 was the fine amount and 90 cases were filed in April. A senior railway official said the ticket checking staff booked cases separately under the Railways Act 1989 under Section 167. "We have anywhere between 11 and 14 trains arriving and departing daily at SMVT station. The station is a no-smoking zone and many do not know that," he said.

Man accused of killing dad, kidnaps son, arrested

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Kodigehalli police arrested a man who allegedly kidnapped his five-year-old son, and rescued the boy.

The accused has been identified as Harikrishna Singanamala from Ballari. Police said Harikrishna was running a steel plant in Ballari, and Silvia Rameshwari, from West Bengal, had joined the company in 2015. They were in a relationship and had a boy in 2018.

Later, they separated after Harikrishna was arrested for his father's murder. Harikrishna had moved court seeking his son's custody, and the court ordered the boy to remain with the mother.

"Rameshwari lives with her son in Talakaveri Layout in Amruthahalli, and the boy studies in UKG. When she was taking him to school on June 16, five women waylaid her scooter and both mother and son fell. Harikrishna kidnapped him in his car. A policeman passing by alerted the police station, and five women and a man who were at the spot were nabbed, while Harikrishna escaped from the scene," police said.

Six days after the incident, police arrested Harikrishna in Goa. "The boy was safe and he was rescued and reunited with his mother," the police added.

In 2019, Harikrishna's father, Madhav Singanamala was murdered in Thalghattapura police station limits. Police had arrested Harikrishna in this connection, after investigations revealed that he had hired supari killers to finish his father over a property dispute of ₹300 crore. He was released on bail in the murder case.

IISc tops Indian varsities in int'l rankings

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE Indian Institute of Science (IISc) topped among Indian institutes in the UK-based Times Higher Education (THE) rankings.

THE released Asia University Rankings 2023, where IISc bagged the 48th rank globally. In India, IISc came first, followed by Mysuru's JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research. India has 75 universities in the list, the third highest number of universities.

THE Asia University Rankings listed 700 universities across 31 Asian countries and regions. This year, China retained the top two spots for best universities in Asia, with Tsinghua University and Peking University. Japan was top in the most representation of universities in the rankings, with 117 universities in Japan ranked, followed by China with 95 universities and India with 75.

"Indian universities willing to put themselves under assessment in international rankings is impressive, showing an appetite to compete on a global stage against the best in Asia and the world," said Phil Baty, THE's Chief Global Affairs Officer.

Demand high, but buses in short supply, says forum

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

CIVIL society groups in the city participated in an open citizens' assembly, called 'Let's Move Bengaluru' to amplify public voices in building sustainable cities.

Citizens and experts suggested that the government should provide more buses and build infrastructure for all, and not just for cars.

Appreciating the Shakti scheme, Prof Rajeev Gowda, ex-MP and Congress spokesperson, called it a "beacon of light", but he said, "Ridership has jumped by 14 lakh. We can roughly assume 7 lakh new bus passengers over the last two weeks. We have people who want to take public transport but the number of buses is inadequate." "To meet the demand, the government can work on a partnership model with private players or allow CSR funds for more buses," he advised.

Greenpeace, which organised the discussion, said there has been an exponential growth of private vehicles in the city, which has now reached a crore, resulting in terrible snarls. Prof Ashish Verma, convenor, IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab, said, "Over the last 25 years, various governments have invested in construction of concrete infrastructure, such as flyovers and elevated roads, encouraging the purchase of more private vehicles." He said that such projects have come at the "cost of environmental degradation, displacement of people, and loss of green spaces."

Over the last 25 years, governments have invested in construction of concrete infrastructure, such as flyovers and elevated roads, encouraging the purchase of more vehicles

Prof Ashish Verma, convenor, IISc Sustainable Transportation Lab

What do the citizens want?

Around 162 people participated in an offline poll, which showed that 15% of the respondents supported the need for buses exclusively for women, 25% felt mini buses would aid last-mile connectivity, and 59% of them are in favour of more bus lanes and buses, reducing waiting time for buses.

The Bangalore Apartment Federation also noted the transport module in the city is fragmented and not coordinated, with different modes of transport operated by different agencies, leading to chaos, and urged the government to intervene. Experts raised concerns over the government's priority to build only car-centric infra, making mobility exclusive and inaccessible to groups who do not use private transport, especially women.

The five organisations, part of the discussion, also demanded that the 11 Bus Priority Lane as conceived by DULT under the Comprehensive Metropolitan Plan should be implemented.

DAY TO RUN

The Karnataka Olympic Association (KOA) organised the Olympic Day Run on Sunday at Sri Kanteerava Stadium, where hundreds took part. MLC and political secretary to chief minister, K Govindaraj, who is also the president of the KOA, city Police Commissioner B Dayananda and others were present | EXPRESS

Idgah Maidan back in biz ahead of Bakrid

AKNISREE KARTHIK @Bengaluru

AFTER a hiatus of around three years because of the pandemic and other factors, Chamarajpet Idgah Maidan is witnessing brisk business ahead of Eid al-Adha (Bakrid) Sunday. Hundreds of vendors from various parts of Karnataka thronged the ground. They said that business has bounced back compared to pre-Covid times.

From the morning, there was a big crowd at the ground, and it swelled as the day progressed. Hundreds of breeds, including Karnataka's pride Bandur (Bannur) breed from Mandya, Tenguri breed, from the hilly tracts of Koppal, the Deccani breed of North Karnataka, Sirohi and Kota breed, from Rajasthan, and others were for sale.

The prices of the animals started from around Rs 10,000 and crossed a lakh. The special attraction at the Idgah market was a male bighorn sheep, popularly called 'Tagaru' in Kannada that weighed around a hundred kg, and priced at Rs 1.2 lakh. Even the Kota breeds came for over a lakh.

"Taguru needs special care and is fed dry fruits like almonds, cashew and milk. The cost of its food alone is over Rs 600 per day. We have to take care of it for more than three years to touch a hundred kg," said a Tagaru vendor. Buyers said that rates have gone up compared with last year's prices.

"Last year, the price of a Bannur sheep was around Rs 15,000, but this year, it is Rs 20,000," said Mohammed Taha, a customer.

Brisk business at Chamarajpet Idgah Maidan on Sunday | SHASHIDHAR BYRAPPA

EXPRESS READ

Two techies killed on expressway

Mysuru: Two techies died on the spot after they rammed a vehicle with their two-wheeler on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Expressway Sunday. The deceased have been identified as Janaradhan Poojary, a native of Yalburga taluk in Koppal district, and Manikanta, a native of Krishnagiri in Mulbagal taluk of Kolar district. The duo were on their way to Mysuru from Bengaluru. The bodies have been shifted to Maddur Hospital and the traffic police have registered a case. **ENS**

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

26TH June : You may know that astrology is less about predicting the future than managing the present. The goal is to find out what possibilities lie in the immediate future and then minimise potential difficulties and make the most of everything that's positive. Its all about our own free will.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
There are days when you have no choice but to come down to earth and be as business like as possible, and this is one of them. Never for a single moment should you drop your guard. Mind you, if you want to give yourself over to love and passion, that's a different matter!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
You are on to a winner. Jupiter, planet of optimism, expansion and success, is on your team, urging you to greater achievements. All you need to do is keep your feet on the ground and take care of the facts. When your natural skill combines with the power of the stars you are unstoppable.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
Nobody would blame you if you kept yourself to yourself. After all, there are times when even you have to go in for a spot of quiet reflection. Always ignore rumours and gossip, by the way for, if you act on unsubstantiated information, your risk damaging your reputation.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
You're now in the clear on a personal matter, but you may be wondering why certain other people still refuse to be pinned down. An unlikely romantic goal now begins to seem attainable - at last. And, if a partner doesn't respond to pressure, you may try persuasion.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Although good communication is absolutely necessary, it's by no means certain that sticking to the facts will do you any good. You would do well to try and give reluctant partners a picture of how much better life would be if only they'd agree with you! They might not, though!

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
You should spare a thought for ethical issues, like whether what you are doing is right and proper. If it is, all well and good. If not, make the necessary changes tomorrow. Romantic individuals, by the way, are about to receive an additional shot of passion.

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
Joint financial affairs could do with a little attention today, so why don't you clear paper-work and settle any debts that are due as soon as possible? Once new creative projects are under way, tried and tested solutions should offer the best route to success.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The slow passage of planets through the most sensitive quarters of your solar horoscope suggests that, at the moment, personal motivation is everything. Employers may have to respect your desire to do things your way. But, if you follow your own path, it's even more essential that you do better than ever.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
There is a lot to be said for having a last burst of extravagance before the present finan-cial cycle comes to an end. You would be wise to consult as many people as possible before commit-ting yourself, though, for your judgement may not be at its best.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
Venus and Mars are still linked, and given that these are the planets of love and passion it follows that the emotional temperature is still high. You should aim for activities which are enthusiastic, optimistic and idealistic - and involve other people.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
You'll have to take more notice of family obligations and domestic routine than expected. You should also set aside sufficient time to accomplish whatever is necessary. This is not the moment to stick your head in the sand, so face real life head on!

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
It's a useful day for discussions, so keep other people up to date with your thoughts. But hold something back if you have the least inkling that partners are not yet ready to hear the whole truth. Sometimes you need to give other people the chance to catch up.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

		4	9	2			5	
	6		4		3			9
		1	8			7		4
		9	3			2		8
			5		2			
6		8			7	4		
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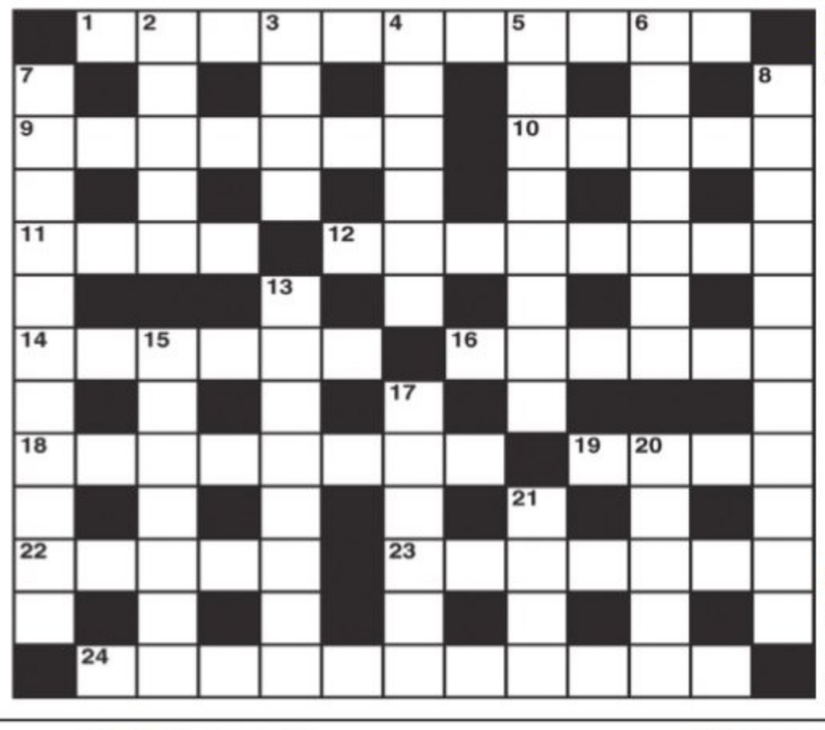
7			2		4		9	
	9			5	8	6		

7	6	1	2	4	9	5	8	3
8	5	4	7	3	6	2	9	1
2	9	3	1	5	8	6	7	4
4	7	6	3	1	5	9	2	8
9	8	2	4	6	7	1	3	5
1	3	5	9	8	2	7	4	6
5	1	7	8	2	3	4	6	9
6	2	8	5	9	4	3	1	7
3	4	9	6	7	1	8	5	2

SUDOKU EASY

TEST YOUR NUMBER CRUNCHING SKILL WITH OUR UNIQUE PUZZLE

Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.



CROSS WORD

ACROSS

1 Look at and study the working pattern (11)
9 A strange odd pet taken in by the family (7)
10 It conveys a sense of courage (5)
11 It takes little space in the newspaper (4)
12 Crimes one flies from perhaps (8)
14 Mother's returned a kitchen utensil - it's junk (6)
16 Fear of finishing last by mistake (6)
18 Unusually apt due to being right in fashion (2-2-4)
19 Form of transport levy that's imposed on one (4)
22 Set method of communication (5)
23 Settle a row on a river (7)
24 A tailor may make his mark with it (6,5)

DOWN

2 Over one ounce of oxygen (5)
3 He opposed Stalin and lived to write about it (4)
4 New demand put out of one's mind (6)
5 Capital fellow; extremely single-minded (8)
6 Row about stray dog (7)
7 However you view it, it adds up to the same thing (5,6)
8 It takes liquid refreshment and leaves (3,8)
13 A worker has fallen but pass on (4,4)
15 He produces his pass when he's being charged (7)
17 New act with hat and stick (6)
20 Abolish article from a yearbook (5)
21 Chief means of support (4)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Renoir, 4 Enclosed, 9 Usurer, 10 Stand out, 12 Dais, 13 Terms, 14 Eggs, 17 Frankenstein, 20 Let well alone, 23 Espy, 24 Smash, 25 Scar, 28 Shivered, 29 Carmen, 30 Linguist, 31 Stints.

Down: 1 Round off, 2 Nautical, 3 Ibex, 5 No time to lose, 6 Lent, 7 Stooge, 8 Detest, 11 Keen swimmers, 15 Skier, 16 Dinar, 18 Coachman, 19 Bearings, 21 Vessel, 22 Option, 26 Menu, 27 Cant.

JUMBLE

UNSCRAMBLE THESE JUMBLES, ONE LETTER TO EACH SQUARE, TO FORM FOUR ORDINARY WORDS.

BY DAVID L. HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

GTIRE

ENQEU

SSULTY

LRAYAP

Back at you! You have lovely leaves.
Hello! Nice to meet you. Looks like we're going to be neighbors.
4/28
WHEN THE NEW OAK AND MAPLE TALKED TO EACH OTHER, THEY EXCHANGED ---
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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

" ○○○○○○○ - ○○○○○ "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: FRAME OUNCE SWEATY RADIAL
Answer: The Sun has been rising in the east every morning since the — DAWN OF TIME

Govt. of Uttarakhand

Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav

G20

भारत 2023 INDIA

वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्

ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE

"Guided by the principle of 'One Earth, One Family, One Future' and in line with our ethos of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', India's G-20 Presidency has worked to further global good and create a better planet."

Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

Pushkar Singh Dhami
Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

A Warm Welcome & Greetings to the G-20 Delegates at Devbhoomi Uttarakhand

Infrastructure Working Group

26-28 June, 2023

Narendra Nagar, Rishikesh

Issued in Public Interest by Information & Public Relations Department, Uttarakhand

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A pedestrian was knocked down by a car on Dr Rajkumar Road in Rajajinagar traffic police station limits in Bengaluru on Sunday morning. The identity of the deceased, who is aged around 55, is yet to be established

3 CENTRAL AGENCIES AGREE TO GET RICE FOR AROUND ₹34/KG

But state government may have to bear transportation cost, pay 1% commission to them

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THREE central agencies have agreed to procure rice for the state government's flagship programme Anna Bhagya.

The National Cooperative Consumers Federation (NCCF), National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) and Kendriya Bhandara are likely to source a part of the 2.28 lakh tonnes of rice required for the free rice scheme, from other states, including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Punjab as there is no adequate stock available in the state.

At a high-powered meeting held by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa on Saturday, the officials from the central agencies committed to procure rice from traders and rice mills at around Rs 34 per kg which is the price fixed by the Food Corporation of India, sources said.

But the state government will have to bear the cost of transportation and also pay a commission of around 1 per cent to the agencies, the sources told *The New Indian Express*.

Muniyappa recently met Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution Piyush Goyal in New Delhi, but had failed to convince him to lift the ban on the sale of rice to states. The Centre has reasoned that FCI has to build a bigger stockpile of the staple grain and cannot supply it to the states.

BJP govt lifted 95% of rice, says Jairam Ramesh

AICC communication wing chief Jairam Ramesh alleged that the Central government has been targeting Karnataka by denying rice supplies from FCI. "The Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs discontinuing OMSS(D) for states was targeted at mainly one state, Karnataka, that procured more than 95 per cent of all rice bought by state governments under the scheme this year," he said.

"From Jan.1, 2023 till May.24, 2023, the BJP-led state government in Karnataka alone lifted more than 95 per cent of the rice procured by all State governments under the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) at Rs 3,400 per quintal, presumably with Modi-ji's "Aashirwaad". Once, the Congress government was formed in Karnataka, as threatened by BJP President J P Nadda, this "Aashirwaad" was withdrawn at break-neck speed," he alleged in a press release.

FCI had issued orders for the sale of rice under OMSS (D) on June 12, 2023, based on the Karnataka government's requests on June 6 and June 9, 2023. A day later, the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs discontinued OMSS (D) for states, he said.

"Clearly, this was targeted at sabotaging the implementation of the Anna Bhagya 2.0 scheme guaranteed by the Congress to the people of Karnataka. Immediately, on June 14, the GM Karnataka of the FCI, withdrew the earlier order of sale of rice on June 12, 2023. Not only that, the Chairman and Managing Director of FCI in a press conference on June 23, 2023 said that conditions will be placed such that private traders cannot sell to another state. Isn't this a clear case of sabotage," he asked.

OVER 51 LAKH REGISTER FOR GRUHA JYOTI

Registration for the Gruha Jyoti scheme that promises 200 units of free power to those eligible has crossed 51 lakh on Sunday. The registration opened on June 18 and initially faced several glitches. A total of 51.17 lakh consumers have registered for the scheme. BESCOM said that consumers can register without any fee at their nearby electricity offices, Nadakacheri or through the Seva Sindhu portal and requested them not to fall prey to illegal websites and applications.

Yediyurappa to play 'opposition leader' outside Vidhana Soudha

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@Bengaluru

FORMER chief minister BS Yediyurappa, who took retirement from electoral politics, will be back as "opposition leader" to corner the Congress government outside the Assembly.

"Soon after the governor's address in the House, I will sit on a dharna in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on the premises of Vidhan Soudha on July 3 and continue till the session ends (10 days). The Congress government came to power by making false promises (the five guarantees) to the people. It must implement them or quit," said Yediyurappa, who "sacrificed" his Shikaripura Assembly constituency to shape the political future of his son BY Vijayendra.

The budget session will start from July 3 and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is likely to present his 14th budget on July 7.

"Inside the House, elected BJP leaders will fight it out and outside, those leaders who were defeated in the Assembly polls will take on the government," Yediyurappa stressed.

This means that the leader of the opposition leads BJP inside the house, while the 80-year-old veteran leader will head the group of leaders who could not make it to the Assembly.

Inside the House, elected Bharatiya Janata Party leaders will fight it out and outside, those leaders who were defeated in the Assembly polls will take on the government

BS Yediyurappa, former CM

Yediyurappa will take up issues related to the government's failure to implement the promises, including the five guarantees, especially the Anna Bhagya scheme, which is in a limbo due to non-availability of rice.

"If Congress fails to distribute the rice and even if one gram of rice is reduced, we will launch a protest against the government," he said.

According to political pundits, Yediyurappa, who is known for his struggle as leader of the opposition in his political career spanning over five decades, doesn't want to give up the space to others as he wants to be politically active. "Whether it is BJP or JDS, Yediyurappa wants to acquire the prominence as a leader to be reckoned with," they observed.

But the ruling Congress is also prepared to take on BJP and Yediyurappa, saying the former chief minister failed to deliver the goods, besides allegedly being involved in corruption.

"He is free to stage a dharna, but what moral right does he have? BJP failed to implement the promises of its manifesto, including waiving off farm loans of up to Rs 1 lakh availed from nationalised banks, ten hours of uninterrupted power supply to farmers and Rs 1.5 lakh crore to the irrigation sector. Now, since it is the Centre that has refused to supply rice to the state, staging a dharna against the state government is meaningless," said Siddaramaiah.

Officials demolish a resort in Sanapur in Koppal district last week

40 structures razed in 2 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

BUT many resort owners have not taken the offer, instead, they have approached court to bring a stay against further demolitions. So far, nearly 40 structures have been razed by the authorities in the last two years.

Recently, the villagers and resort owners protested against the authorities over the demolition. "Most homestays and hospitality structures were temporary and attracted tourists from all over the world. The authorities must make alternative arrangements to ensure there is enough space for locals to run our business like before," said a resort owner from Sanapur.

Officials from the Hampi World Heritage Area Management Authority said that all the resorts that were demolished had received notices three months ago. "The operation was conducted with the help of the police. All the demolished structures were part of the Hampi heritage zone. As per laws, no construction can be allowed in these areas," said an official.

'They only want Modi's defeat': Bommai hits out at Patna Oppn meet

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

FORMER CM Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday took a dig at the recent Opposition meeting in Patna saying that they discussed only about ways to defeat Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2024 and not about the country's progress.

Bommai was speaking at a BJP party workers' meeting here. "PM Modi will not lose and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will not get married," he said recalling RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav's advice to the Congress leader.

Basavaraj Bommai

"There is no leader who can stand in front of PM Modi. The entire country has accepted Modi's leadership. Congress will not win in 2024," the former CM said. Bommai said the BJP will win 25 seats in Karnataka and said the state always votes differently in Assembly and Lok Sabha polls. "Congress was in power in 2013, but we won 18 seats in 2014 Lok Sabha elections in Karnataka. In 2019, there was a Congress-JDS coalition government in the state... but we won 25 of the 28 seats," he added. Bommai said the country witnessed several terror attacks during the UPA regime between 2004 and 2014. "But after BJP came to power, PM Modi destroyed the arrogance of Pakistan," he added. He also criticised the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government in the state over its five guarantees. "The government has lost its popularity within a month of coming to power. Even the road transport corporations will shut down their operations in the state owing to the Shakti scheme. There is no rain... all reservoirs are empty. But the government is not thinking about it," he said, adding that the Congress has no moral right to accuse the Centre of not giving rice.

Bommai said he takes responsibility for the BJP's loss in Karnataka. "My government implemented several welfare schemes. We set aside Rs 5,500 crore for irrigation projects. We also granted Rs 5,000 crore for the development of Kalyana Karnataka region. All the good works implemented by us were not highlighted enough," Bommai elaborated.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a Congress Maha Samavesha in Sangli, Maharashtra, on Sunday

Only Cong can ensure progress: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE country needs a non-Bharatiya Janata Party government to ensure development, said Chief Minister Siddaramiah after taking part in a Congress Maha Samavesha in Sangli, Maharashtra Sunday.

He urged party workers to work together in the Lok Sabha polls next year, and ensure BJP's defeat.

Only a non-BJP government at the Centre to uplift downtrodden, curb corruption, and take the country on the path of development. "We have to launch a movement like that of the Independence struggle in the next Lok Sabha polls to remove BJP from power," the chief minister added.

Mocking the slogan "acche din", Siddaramaiah said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had promised to recover the black money and deposit Rs 15 lakh in the account of every citizen and 18 crore jobs in 9 years, but instead, youths are losing jobs.

He also pointed out that prices of fuel, cement and food items have soared. "Modi claims that he will not tolerate corruption, but the previous BJP government was steeped in 40% commission," he said.

"They (BJP) are against the Constitution. Farmers, poor people and the minorities are now living in fear. It is the responsibility of the Congress to remove BJP from power at the Centre and in Maharashtra," he said.

Plan afoot to suppress the Hindu voice in state: Yatnal

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi

"A systematic plan is on to suppress the voice of Hindus in the state. CT Ravi (BJP national general secretary) was made to lose the Assembly elections by spreading fake news about BL Santhosh (BJP national general secretary - organisation). BJP has to come to power to protect Hindus and our nation," said Vijaypura BJP MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal.

Speaking at the BJP district-level party workers' meeting organised at Gandhi Bhavan in Belagavi on Sunday, he lashed out at the meeting of opposition parties in Patna, saying it was a meeting of thieves. "Their plan is to bankrupt our country on the lines of Pakistan. Do you want India to become a Pakistan," he asked party workers, appealing to them to win all the 28 Lok Sabha seats in the state in the next year's elections.

He said some leaders from his own party tried to defeat him. "But Bommai and I proved ourselves by winning the elections without visiting our constituencies. Party workers are aware of the leaders who worked to defeat party candidates. My election in Vijayapura too was not easy. Those who worked against me lost the election," he said, indirectly targeting former minister Murugesh Nirani.

He exhorted party workers saying, "Nothing can happen if you sit at home and regret the loss. We all should start working together to bring BJP back to power."

The present Congress government cannot implement the five guarantees. "Now, their true colours are being revealed and anarchy is prevailing in the state. The Siddaramaiah-DK Shivakumar government will not complete its five-year term. This government will implode before or after the parliamentary elections."

BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal

LATERAL BENEFIT

It's a guarantee: Temple run on Shakti, women devotees swell hundi collections

K SHIVA KUMAR @ Mysuru

THERE is an unexpected beneficiary of the Shakti free bus travel scheme — the temple hundi. The movement of women devotees has increased, and groups of women are making a beeline for temples and casting their mite into the hundis.

With more than 4 crore women availing of free bus service within 12 days of introduction of the scheme — availing of more than Rs 100 crore worth of tickets — the collection in temples is likely to swell further. The flow of devotees has doubled in Male Mahadeshwara Hills, Srikanteshwara Temple, Kukke Subramanya, Himavad Gopalaswamy Hills and other places.

Women self-help groups are going in teams to temples, and buses to MM Hills, Dharmasthala and Subramanya in southern and coastal Karnataka are running full.

Srikanteshwara Temple in Nanjangud recorded Rs1.55 crore collection, and the temple town has also received heavy flow of devotees since June 11 | FILE PHOTO

In MM Hills, temple authorities have recorded Rs 2.53 cr hundi collection. MM Hills Development Authority Deputy Secretary Basavaraju said the flow of devotees, particularly women, has increased to the hill temple after the launch of Shakti. There is also a crowd at Dasoha Bhavan, that serves free prasadam. He felt the collection may go up as footfall has increased and they have also focussed on improving facilities for devotees.

Srikanteshwara Temple in Nanjangud recorded Rs1.55 crore collection, and the temple town has also received heavy flow of devotees since June 11. However, a temple priest said the rush has made many devotees and affluent sections put off their visit, hoping the crowd many thin in the next few weeks.

Other temples which have similarly benefited are Gopalaswamy Temple in Gundlupet and Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple. A few visitors also opt for a safari in Bandipur to finish off their temple visit.

Mahadev, a temple staffer, felt the crowd may recede once the monsoon sets in properly and farming activities pick up pace. Tourist flow many pick up again after the harvest and during vacations, with many planning to explore tourist spots.

Shakti has also led to a flow of devotees to Chamundi Hill on Ashada Friday, with about 40,000 women availing of free rides from Chamundi Hill and City bus stop in Mysuru alone. More than 1.8 lakh women used the service on the first Ashada alone in Mysuru district to reach the hill and other temples.

Chamundi Hills, which records the highest number of devotees on Ashada Friday, Dasara and during vacations, is getting devotees on weekdays too.

'Need to sensitise MLAs on tobacco-control steps'

AKNISREE KARTHIK
@ Bengaluru

IN the backdrop of the orientation programme set to be held between June 26 and 28 for the MLAs, officials from the State Tobacco Control Cell, Department of Health and Family Welfare, have proposed to hold a session on tobacco control. The session is aimed to sensitise elected representatives on various tobacco control measures and create awareness so that they help in the better implementation of the policies.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will be inaugurating the three-day orientation programme for the MLAs at Nelamangala on Monday.

"We have submitted a proposal to Assembly Speaker UT Khader requesting him to allocate time in the three-day orientation programme so that tobacco control experts can sensitise them so that they will be in a better position to frame policies and take decisions," an official said.

"The state-level Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA) needs to be amended. When the elected representatives are sensitised on the need for the amendment, they will ensure that the amendment bill when tabled in the House is passed," the official said, adding that they want the attention of the elected representatives towards banning hookah bars, abolish the provision for designated smoking area in hotels and restaurants and banning all kinds of tobacco advertisement.

Further, the official said that they want the implementation of vendor licensing that mandates a vendor to obtain a license to sell tobacco products. The session is likely to be led by the State Tobacco Control Cell with other tobacco control experts like Oncologist Dr Vishal Rao and others conducting the session for the MLAs.

A 20-year-old youth was stabbed to death by his friends in Kasavanahalli in Bellandur on Saturday. The deceased, identified as David, from Nepal, was residing with his brother in Haralur and was working as an assistant cook in a hotel. He had quarrelled with his friends over some issue

BIG PICTURE

THE BIG EGG QUESTION

The humble egg had run into resistance when introduced as part of the midday meal scheme, and now, budget constraints have limited it to one a week

TEAM TNIE @ Bengaluru

WHILE no major controversies have arisen in the school education sector this academic year, which cannot be said for last year, small pressures are still mounting.

Most recently, these pressures have come in the form of distribution of eggs under the Midday Meal Scheme (MMS) to students studying in government schools under the Department of School Education and Literacy. Recently, the department issued an order, limiting the distribution of eggs to once a week, rather than twice a week, due to budget constraints and the rising cost of procuring eggs in the state. While the order seems to have come out of nowhere, the issue had been mounting for a while now, dating back to as early as January 2022.

ON MIDDAY MENU

In December 2021, the Karnataka government took a decision to start distributing eggs under MMS in seven districts -- Yadgir, Raichur, Bidar, Ballari, Kalaburagi, Koppal and Vijayapura. The decision was made as the districts had come to the fore for staggering rates of malnutrition among students, with recommendations being made to include supplementary nutritional items to the children's diet under MMS. The initial decision was to provide eggs from Class 1 to Class 8, on 46 days of the academic year. The potential to raise the number to 150 days in the year was also entertained, however, this has still not come to fruition.

The decision to distribute eggs in the seven districts was extended to the entire state in July 2022, despite opposition from various avenues. However, results from the pilot distribution to seven districts had seen good results. A study conducted in Yadgir district to study the effects had found a massive decrease in malnutrition. The government also brought in alternatives like chikki and bananas.

ISSUES IN DISTRIBUTION

With the distribution of eggs turning controversial, with fierce opposition from many sides, the Karnataka government initially took the aid of the Tamil Nadu government in understanding how to effectively introduce eggs in midday meals.

However, as early as February 2022, there were reports of rising costs affecting the supply of eggs, as Anganwadi workers appealed for higher procurement allocation. While the initial allocation for procurement and cooking of the eggs was Rs 5, it was later increased to Rs 6 to account for the hike in egg prices.

According to sources in the education department, the allocation of Rs 6 is to account for Rs 5 as procurement cost, and 50 paise going towards boiling and shelling costs respectively. Egg distribution was on shaky ground as meetings were held with religious leaders during 2022, where the introduction of sattvic food was discussed, however, this was never implemented due to heavy opposition from nutritionists.

In January 2023, however, egg distribution yet again became a problem, with schools trying to skimp on the distribution of eggs by distributing cheaper alternatives of chikki or bananas to students. This turned into an issue with the department, which later reiterated that eggs must be given to students who ask for them, and adjustments need to be made in the budget.

At the time, Public Instruction Commissioner R Vishal had stated that schools would need to manage their budgets accordingly. "The price of eggs changes, and the number of students going to school on a particular day varies. If there are fewer students, it must be adjusted accordingly so that surplus is spent on days when there are more children," he said.

This proved to be of no help, with the recent government order finally acknowledging the lack of funds for eggs, and temporarily lowering the number of eggs distributed per week to one from the usual two. Egg distribution is expected to return to normal on July 15, following the budget session, with the government yet again having high hopes of introducing eggs in meals for 100 days, doubling the current allocation.

NUTRITION IN CHILDREN

The main reason for introduction of eggs in the Midday Meal Scheme was due to a rise in malnutrition in the state.

A survey was conducted by the Karnataka State Rural Development and Panchayat Raj University, Gadag, in the districts of Yadgir and Gadag, after the Midday Meal Scheme was implemented in Yadgir.

The study found conclusive results, with Yadgir showing a marked improvement in the mental and physical development of a child, compared to Gadag, where the scheme wasn't implemented. Following a report from the university, the government implemented the scheme all over the state.

MMS officials are confident that as of now, the scheme satisfies all requirements needed for the daily nutrition of students. MMS Senior Assistant Director Manjunath S C told TNIE that the nutritional value of food has been set out very strictly in the scheme's guidelines, and they ensure that diverse food is served to children every day.

"We have a different type of food every day, the rice is fortified with folic acid, iron, zinc and vitamins B-12 and A. We also use iodised salt and fortified oil. Apart from supplementary requirements of eggs, chikki and banana, regular food includes rice, sambar, bisibelebath, pulao, rasam and sabji, this changes depending on the day. For sambar and sabji, we make sure that different vegetables are used each day and all nutrition needs are met. On Saturdays, we use wheat products, like chapati, and also give payasam," he said.

Nutrition experts stated that while this may be true, other factors also need to be taken into account. "It is not only the question of what the government or departments are supplying. It is the question of how they supply it and whether all procedures are being followed. For instance, the absorbing capacity of the nutrients may be low, and differ for every individual. All such things need to be taken care of. Sometimes, children fall short of nearly 75 per cent of their daily nutrients, despite being provided food," one expert said.

They also stated that it depends on the condition of each child, their health, sanitation, hygiene of the food and other factors to show an impact on the growth of the children.

Dr Sangeeta Hugar, nutritionist in Kalaburagi District Government Hospital, said the energy needs of healthy children are also determined by basal metabolism, rate of growth and energy expenditure. Dietary energy must be sufficient to ensure growth and spare protein from being used for energy, she said.

Speaking about the nutritional needs to be included in midday meals, Suvarna Hebbar, coordinator & assistant professor at the department of Clinical Nutrition and Dietetics, Manipal College of Health Professionals, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) and also incharge dietician, Kasturba Medical College (KMC) Manipal, said adequate nutrition and excellent feeding practices are critical for a young child's optimal growth.

"Protein is responsible for body building, maintaining of body functions and repairing body tissues. One can get protein from meat, fish, poultry milk and dairy products. Fats provide energy and also act as energy reserve. Vegetable oil, ghee, different types of seeds such as sesame and nuts are excellent sources of external fatty acids," Dr Hugar said.

She said children need iron because of rapidly expanding blood volume during growth and to prevent anaemia, and green leafy vegetables, nuts, fruits, poultry are some rich sources. "This does not imply that milk or any other supplementary food is a suitable substitute for egg, a class A protein. Children who do not eat eggs should eat a good quality protein mixture of cereals and pulses. A combination of leafy vegetables and Vitamin C should be considered as we see many children are anaemic at this age. Since food items under MMS are transported, the shelf life of the items is to be listed, and what is given to the kids should be selected carefully," she said.

INTRODUCTION OF MEAT

Interestingly, apart from regular reasons, the shelf life of ingredients has been raised as a concern against the introduction of meat in MMS.

According to nutritionists, eggs, milk, sprouts and other regular hygienic food is sufficient for a growing child, with meat only an exception. Tanushree, a nutritionist from Hassan, told TNIE that the hygiene of meat cannot be maintained on school premises, and can be a high-risk factor in food poisoning, if introduced.

Dr Prashant Pawar, a medical officer under the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) also opined that meat is not a necessity for a growing child.

Speaking from an administrative point of view, Hassan DDPI Prakash also said it would be difficult to maintain the hygiene of meat, if provided under the scheme. He also said it would disturb vegetarians when provided during a mass meal.

ATTENDANCE IMPROVAL

The overall consensus for the Midday Meal Scheme, as well as distribution of eggs, is that this has benefitted students, both physically and mentally. Several Deputy Directors of Public Instruction (DDPIs) told TNIE that a marked improvement in enrolment and attendance was seen, following the introduction of MMS.

Hassan DDPI Prakash K S stated that the dropout rate -- which was nearly 10 per cent -- has drastically decreased after midday meals were introduced.

The midday meal scheme has also improved attendance in schools in Shivamogga district. There are 1.48 lakh students studying in Class 1 to Class 10, who are reaping the benefits of the scheme.

Davangere DDPI C R Parameshwarappa said the inclusion of eggs in the midday meal has also improved attendance in schools in the district.

Yadgir DDPI H T Manjunath and Kalaburagi DDPI Sakreppa Gowda Biradar also agreed that due to midday meals, enrolment of students has increased and students attend classes regularly, and their overall health is also improving.

(With inputs from Donna Eva, Prakash Samaga, Marx Tejasvi, Mallikarjun Hiremath, Ramkrishna Badseshi, Raghu Koppar and Udaya Kumar)

TS Cong, BJP leaders in Delhi to discuss polls

IREDDY SRINIVAS REDDY
@ Hyderabad

THE political activity of the state has shifted to Delhi with the leaders of both Congress and BJP holding crucial discussions with their national leaders on the upcoming Assembly poll strategy. The mood in the two camps is different. While the Telangana Congress is upbeat after the Karnataka Assembly poll victory, the morale in the state BJP is gloomy.

Eatala Rajender and Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy attended series of meetings with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, BJP president JP Nadda and organising secretary BL Santosh. They stated that they informed Amit Shah and Nadda about the need to take on the BRS government as well as Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao. They warned that the leaders who are against the BRS would shift their loyalty to other parties, instead of the BJP, if the leadership does not change its stand on the ruling party. One of the BJP leaders held a meeting with State party in-charge Sunil Bansal on Sunday and explained that the party cadre was demoralised after the outcome of the Karnataka Assembly elections.

They reportedly told the party national leaders that after the slow progress of Delhi liquor scam case, none of the leaders from other parties were interested to join BJP. Some leaders expressed the view that no leader from other parties was interested in joining the BJP as BRS MLC K Kavitha was spared from being arrested in the liquor scam.

Meanwhile, the Congress leaders were busy discussing with the high command about the new entries and inviting YSRTP president YS Sharmila into the party.

Shantha had lost her home in the 2019 Kodagu floods

PERMIT EUTHANASIA: FLOOD VICTIM TO PREZ

ENS @ Madikeri

SHANTHA, 66, a resident of Kodagu district who lost her house in the 2019 floods, has written to President Droupadi Murmu seeking her permission for euthanasia. "Either help me build a house (she urged the government) or give me permission to kill myself," Shantha wrote to the President highlighting the failure of the district administration and the authorities concerned in granting her a house. Shantha's village of Nellihudikeri was one among the several hamlets in Kodagu that was flooded in 2019.

At present, Shantha, a widow, stays with her son in a rented house and works as a domestic help. In the aftermath of the floods, Shantha took shelter in a nearby relief centre. "The then CM BS Yeddiyurappa and other ministers promised us of building new houses. The government also assured us of paying our rents till the houses were ready. However, none of this happened," she wrote in the letter.

Kannada actor Suraj loses leg in accident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Mysuru

KANNADA matinee idol Dr Rajkumar's relative and actor Suraj Kumar aka Dhruwan was seriously injured in a road accident on Mysuru-Gundlupet highway near Begur in Gundlupet taluk on Saturday.

Sources say the doctors have amputated Suraj's right leg which was badly damaged in the accident. He is the son of film producer S A Srinivas, who is the brother of film producer late Parvathamma Rajkumar. Suraj had changed his name as Dhruwan to enter the film industry.

Suraj was riding his bike on the highway when he was hit by a tipper near Hirikati Gate in Gundlupet taluk around 4 pm and suffered serious injuries on his right leg.

Police said Suraj who is residing in Mysuru was travelling to Ooty on his bike when he lost control while overtaking a tractor and hit an oncoming tipper lorry. He was immediately rushed to the Manipal Hospital in Mysuru where the doctors performed below-knee amputation surgery on the right leg as a life-saving procedure.

EXPRESS READ

Infy to start ops in Vizag from June 28

Visakhapatnam: Infosys is all set to start operations at its centre at Visakhapatnam from June 28. It will start functioning with 650 employees though it has a capacity of 1000 seater. It will be further expanded and developed as development centre with 3000 seater capacity in future, sources said. It is coming up in the premises of Signature Towers in Rishikonda.

KSRTC clarifies on misleading accident video

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

DAYS after a video alleging that two women passengers got their hands injured while boarding a KSRTC bus via the window panel went viral on social media platforms, the bus corporation on Sunday clarified that they were injured in an accident and not while boarding the bus.

It stated that the viral video mislead people by claiming that the women were injured while attempting to get into the bus through the window due to surge in passengers after the launch of the Shakti scheme that offers free travel to women.

Two women passengers sitting on the window seat on the right side of the KSRTC bus were injured as a vehicle coming in the opposite direction hit them, the clarification stated, adding that the accident happened on June 18 at Hullehalli of Mandya district while operating on Nanjangudu - T Narasipura route.

The injured women, identified as S Shanta Kumari got her right hand severed and Rajamma's right hand was severely injured. The victims were given first aid at Nanjangud government hospital and later shifted to a leading private hospital in Mysuru for further treatment. KSRTC maintained that the bus driver was not at fault.

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METROS, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai - 600 035
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EDITORIAL

"The more I study, the more insatiable do I feel my genius for it to be" — Ada Lovelace

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

BHASMASURA MOMENT AS WAGNER THREATENED RUSSIAN INSURRECTION

A flicker of global excitement about insurrection in Russia died all too soon after mercenary outfit Wagner group's mercurial boss Yevgeny Prigozhin ordered his troops barrelling towards Moscow to stand down. What seemed like the biggest armed challenge to decades of President Vladimir Putin's despotic rule folded up within 24 hours without bloodshed. For months on end, Prigozhin had been ranting against Russian defence minister Sergei Shoigu claiming his private army on the Ukrainian war front were being denied supplies of fresh ammunition. On Saturday, he accused the Russian military of launching missile strikes on his hired guns to justify his revolt. His estimated 25,000-strong army suddenly moved out of its field camps in occupied Ukraine to launch a blitzkrieg, capturing military installations in Russia's Rostov city, about 1,000 km south of Moscow, and alarmingly taking a motorway towards the national capital, seizing more army bases on the way. Russia hadn't felt this vulnerable in decades. When Putin's warning of harsh punishment failed to deter Prigozhin, Belarus president Alexander Lukashenko worked the phones to midwife a peace deal. While its contours are not yet clear, the Wagner boss was said to be headed to Belarus.

Putin can consider himself lucky that the evil he created did not eventually consume him. The Wagner group was raised with his patronage for all the dirty fights abroad to expand the Russian foreign policy objectives—with the fig leaf of deniability. Wagner's brutality in the Syria and Mali wars, violating ethics and human rights with impunity, have already been well documented. Reminds you of the story of Bhasmasura. Lord Shiva granted the asura a boon to reduce any individual to ashes if the latter were to place his hand on the person's head. The asura then got greedy and chased the Maheshwara himself to make him the test case of his new powers. Shiva somehow wriggled out of the sticky situation and so did Putin but it exposed the latter's vulnerability to a Frankenstein monster.

At another level, there is global relief as the Russian nuclear arms stockpile continues to remain in stable hands instead of military rogues. One loose cannon put the world on the brink. He ought to be brought to justice despite the deal that gave him a free pass out of Russia.

STARTUPS MUST IRON OUT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The unravelling of homegrown edtech giant Byju's is a setback for India's startup ecosystem. Byju's, which emerged as probably one of the most influential startups after Flipkart, is on a slippery slope. It has defaulted on debt repayment, handed over pink slips to thousands of employees, and delayed the release of FY22 financial statements, leading to the resignation of its auditor Deloitte Haskins & Sells. The exit of three external board members (without giving specific reasons) added to the woes of the company. All this raises serious questions vis-à-vis corporate governance. And it does not augur well for the startup ecosystem, which has thrived on relatively easier norms, fewer compliances, and hordes of easy money flowing in from foreign investors.

But Byju's case isn't an isolated one: reports of non-compliance, financial impropriety and irregularities in startups have become a daily affair. Healthtech startup Mojocare is facing scrutiny from its investors after they uncovered 'financial irregularities'. The investors have initiated a review of the company's financial statements. Online car service and repair startup GoMechanic, too, faced similar issues, and it admitted to financial reporting errors. There are many more cases: Ankiti Bose, former Zilingo CEO, and Ashneer Grover, former MD and founder of BharatPe, were forced to quit after allegations of financial irregularities. What makes matters worse is the full-blown public spat between these founders and the investors.

The government has been promoting and encouraging young entrepreneurs and new businesses to make India an innovation hub. It is doing so with the aim of creating enough jobs for India's youth. But frequent collapses of promising startups and allegations of financial misconduct are causes for serious concern. The government makes many exceptions for and gives concessions to these firms so they can make meaningful contributions to the economy. However, if financial and operational lapses become more of a norm than an exception, the government and regulators may start tightening the rules, taking away various compliance- and tax-related exemptions.

Startup founders have to realise that good corporate governance and financial propriety are key to the success of a business: there is no escape from them. By indulging in non-compliance and financial irregularities, even if out of ignorance, they are only queering the pitch for future startups.

QUICK TAKE

MATTER OF PRIVILEGE

India is expanding the list of agencies obligated to maintain a record of transactions with clients and report anything suspicious to conform to the rules of the FATF, the global watchdog on money laundering and terror financing. Apart from broking houses, chartered and cost accountants, the idea of including lawyers is being explored. These moves will strengthen India's money laundering laws, but a debate's brewing on whether involving lawyers will infringe on attorney-client privilege. That has major ramifications for the criminal justice system. But the argument also is that money laundering threatens society, and lawyers play a major role in preserving society.

The political class, instead of addressing and dealing with the issues causing glaring disparities, exploits them and treats diverse caste disparities as vote banks

MANAGING DIVERSITY AGAINST BACKDROP OF MAJORITARIANISM

KAPIL SIBAL
Senior lawyer and member of Rajya Sabha

SOUMYADIP SINHA

Homogeneity is an asset if the nation consists of people practicing one religion, speaking one language and belonging to one race. The narrative of nationalism thrives in such an environment. However, a nation as diverse as India, abode to several races, religions, ethnic communities, castes, speaking different languages and embracing different cultural backgrounds, makes a nationalist narrative difficult to sell. It becomes even more difficult to build that narrative if the politics of the country is based on majoritarianism.

Majoritarianism, as a tool for political dominance, necessitates a brand of politics which is openly divisive and discriminatory towards those who are perceived to be unwilling to conform. We have often seen this happen since 2014, which is why the nation unfortunately stands divided. The majoritarian culture seems to thrive on the narrative of hate and violence. Incidents of violence are now being justified either by spoken words or by conspicuous silence of those at the helm of the political spectrum. Yet, diversity has its own issues.

Recent events in Manipur indicate the complex dimensions of diversity. The Meitei community lives in the Imphal Valley while the Kukis and other tribes live in the hills. The conflict in Manipur is essentially based on the Meitei community's demand for reservation and the right to purchase land in the tribal areas. Both these demands are resisted by Kukis and other tribes who claim that Meiteis are already well off economically and educationally, and adequately represented in business, government jobs and politics. This ethnic conflict has triggered large-scale violence, resulting in the tragic loss of over 100 lives and scores of others being displaced. The violence has still not abated and there is no resolution in sight.

Manipur is just one example of what diversity without resolution leads to. Conflicting interests of castes and communities with disparate cultural moorings, if exploited, breed hate. The cause of such conflicts in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and other states also needs to be addressed. However, the majoritarian culture is deployed to divide both castes and communities for electoral benefit. The caste of the chief minister often determines patronage to those belonging to that particular caste. In the context of a diverse population, this results in conflicts and leaves scars which do not heal for long periods of time.

The attempts of the BJP to gain support of the 'most backward classes', as opposed to the backward communities like the Yadavs in Uttar Pradesh, are examples of political outreach which seeks to sow seeds of discord between sub-castes in a particular caste and between different castes as well. This is because benefits flowing to the backward communities often do not reach the 'least' or the 'most' backward. Even within the backward castes, there are castes which owe their origins to their traditional vocations. These vocational stratifications also provide fodder for the political class seeking their support. The backward classes, while seeking upward mobility, are aware that without political support, their aspirations can never be realised.

One can analyse the impact of these complexities across India. In Haryana, for example, Jats and non-Jats with diverse cultural backgrounds are seldom seen as a cohesive lot. These diverse elements use political outfits for their well-being. The resultant divisions within society are thereafter politically exploited, which in turn leads to societal unrest. Gujjars and Jats as well as backward communities in Rajasthan are yet another example of how diversity brings about a certain element of conflict, which if not addressed, impacts both societal and economic development. This was seen in Gujarat where we witnessed, in the recent past, the Patels (Patidar community) demanding reservation in public employment and education. Similar conflicts have been witnessed in other states as well, particularly in southern states like Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The politics of caste, creed and religion is the bane of politics in India. Unfortunately, it can't be wished away.

Discrimination based on caste is a historical phenomenon. Dalits still face ostracism, inconsistent with our democratic values. They have suffered for centuries and still continue to be discriminated against. They are seen to live in conditions of abject poverty. Incidents of atrocities against Dalits in small villages and towns are showing an upward trend. Conflicts with upper castes, especially landholding castes in various states, and consequential discrimination, is reflected in the political positioning of different parties depending on the size of the caste and its support, impacting electoral outcomes. That is why Dalits in India are wooed by all political parties.

Multi-religious communities with diverse cultural and religious customs also become a source of conflict, which a majoritarian culture seeks to thrive upon for electoral benefit. Minorities are vilified. They are attacked physically and verbally to have them conform to the majoritarian culture. Majoritarian dominance based on religion is the most potent political weapon for majoritarian political outcomes.

For a nation as diverse as ours, where there are religious, cultural and caste divides, and a gaping economic divide as well, what is imperative is an environment that promotes cohesion and unity while embracing a developmental agenda. This will enable us to prosper and thrive. The political class, instead of addressing and dealing with the issues causing such glaring disparities, exploits them and treats diverse caste disparities as vote banks to politically espouse its cause.

This is the bane of contemporary India. The future requires a mindset that allows for diversity in the context of economic prosperity and national development. The focus should be on providing equality of opportunity to all so that the divide within societies does not become an impediment for growth. We need a new culture for the future, a new mindset that seeks to unite rather than divide. Together we need to manage diversity, not exploit it.

(Views are personal)
(Tweets @KapilSibal)

DESPERATE PLEA THROUGH A CLEVER PERFORMANCE

RENUKA NARAYANAN

FAITHLINE

Not everyone may relate to the classical arts but they have played a poignant role in our modern history. Newly independent India was left in dire straits as a ship-to-mouth economy. In the austerity decades after Independence, we had nothing practical or material to boast of. The Green Revolution had yet to happen and we were neither tech and pharma leaders nor the world's fifth largest economy. Nor were we in a position to help others with free vaccines, food, medicines and money.

In this situation, the only thing we had to show for ourselves on the global stage was our classical arts. Performances of classical dance and music at international fora were our calling card, to tell the world, "Look, we are a young country but an old nation. We are India. We will be back." The arts saved our face while we struggled to develop and painfully squared our long-bowed shoulders. So even if we don't relate to them, we have reason to respect them and be grateful. The arts also played a strong part in the Freedom Movement. Rediscovering them was part of rebuilding national identity by repossessing culture.

But even before that, there is a thrilling story about how the arts won freedom for the people from oppression. Back in the day, King Immadi Narasa Nayaka of Vijayanagar encouraged poets and performers to spread culture through their arts. Many were invited to perform at the royal court as well. Once, in 1502, a programme at the palace featured a 'Bhagavata Mela' or devotional play—a troupe from Kuchelapuram village by the river Krishna was to present the play *Prahlada Charitram*. Such dramas or operas, a blend of speech and song, were a very old tradition in India. *Shivlilas* were popular in the days of the older Kakatiya kingdom and so were plays about Lord Vishnu. The troupe from Kuchelapuram could sing in Sanskrit and Telugu and knew its Carnatic music, with gifted young men playing female characters.

The king and his court looked forward to the evening's performance. The courtyard was sprinkled with rosewater and sandalwood essence. Long strings of jasmine were looped around the pillars and torches lit. Copper holders of *sambrani* smoked in the corners, the fragrant resin burnt on live coals to keep away mosquitos.

Into this firelit, expectant atmosphere stepped the artistes of Kuchelapuram, bowing in deep namaste to Narasa Nayaka and his court. The prologue began, invoking the guardians of the eight directions and the powers of justice and righteousness. "A delicate compliment to the king's good governance," preened the courtiers, for were they not part of it?

"Unusual," thought the king, for plays normally began with an invocation to Ganesha, Shiva or Vishnu.

The hero, Prahlada, played by a slim, resolute-looking youth, remonstrated with his tyrannical father Hiranyakashipu. "I cannot submit to you as my guru, O Raja," he said firmly. "You are the ruler of my region, no doubt. But the king of my heart is that just, righteous and merciful one, the lord who abides in the victorious city."

NITIKAK

> The drama climaxed with Vishnu erupting from a pillar as Narasimha the man-lion and killing Hiranyakashipu. A triumphant song and a shower of rose petals marked the play's close

"Why, that's Vijayanagar, the 'victorious city'," thought Narasa Nayaka, suddenly intent.

"He is too far away to save you, Prahlada," boomed the tyrant. "I am the one with immediate and absolute power over you."

"He is a gentle lord," said Prahlada, turning to Narasa Nayaka and bowing deeply. "Unlike you, he is not feared by his subjects. He does not tax them cruelly or make them yield their gold and fields to you, or force their sons into state service or demand their wives and daughters for his own inner chambers."

"How I choose to rule is not your business," thundered the tyrant. "Your task is to obey me, not this faraway Vishnu on his faraway throne."

"Very specific points under that epic tone," thought Narasa Nayaka, deeply interested.

The play went on, its intensity growing as Hiranyakashipu tried every trick in the epic book to kill Prahlada who was saved each time by "faraway Vishnu on his faraway throne". The drama climaxed with Vishnu erupting from a pillar as Narasimha the man-lion and killing Hiranyakashipu. A triumphant song and a shower of rose petals marked the play's close.

The king graciously bestowed the customary bag of gold, silk shawl and gold bracelets on the old man with an enigmatic face who was the troupe leader, and retired to his chamber to think it over.

The next morning he summoned his prime minister and army chief.

"We have some very interesting subjects in our empire," he told them with a grim look. "The artistes of Kuchelapuram have risked their lives to convey a message to me and luckily I was able to read between the lines. They will need an armed escort to go home; make it a fairly big escort. Prime Minister, please send an able administrator with the armed escort. Acting on your authority, he will depose and imprison Guruva Raja who presently administers that region, and take his place. The armed escort must stay with the new administrator."

"Guruva Raja's coffers must be inspected and all wealth that rightfully belongs to the royal treasury must be seized and dispatched here to Hampi, as must any stockpile of arms and ammunition. The citizens held in constraint must be set free and an honorarium disbursed to each one of them to go home with."

"After these matters are taken care of, a healing puja must be conducted, addressed to Lord Vishnu, to thank him for his grace and favour on our land. All citizens must be invited to a feast at the temple. There must be a parade by representatives of all the guilds and communities, with singers and dancers leading them, to celebrate their release from bondage in a befitting manner."

And that, according to tradition, is what happened, and the story was told and retold of the resource and daring of the artistes of Kuchelapuram, also known as Kuchipudi.

(shebaba09@gmail.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Wagner troops

Though the Wagner troops have temporarily halted their armed offensive against Moscow, their blitzkrieg is an indirect lesson of 'Whoever digs a pit for another man's feet will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone up a hill to do mischief, it will come back on him'. It will be in Russia's own interests to put an end to its long-drawn war against Ukraine before the situation spirals out of control.
Sudhakar Cherukunnu, Kannur

Opposition's mission

Apropos of *Opposition's Mission 2024 or Mission Impossible?* (June 25). Shankkar Aiyar aptly used 'frenemies' to define non-Congress Opposition parties that are either Congress' offshoots or regional outfits. The electoral fortune hinges on strengthening the strengths and weakening the weaknesses, which BJP is adept at and Congress lacks. Mission 2024 looks impractical in the near future.
Venkat Desikan, Chennai

Patna outcomes

The Patna meeting has defined the trajectory of Indian politics, i.e., a collaborative battle to fight BJP in 2024. The main objective is to foster unity and devise a comprehensive strategy to challenge the ruling party. It is a herculean task to push through the BJP bastion; they will have to combine all their efforts after sinking their differences.
Haribandhu Panigrahi, Tarbha

Centre's ordinance

Arvind Kejriwal's ultimatum to the Congress about its support for his fight against the Centre's ordinance is uncalled for and exposes his self-centred mindset. He forgets that though the AAP has acquired the status of national party, it cannot be compared with the 138-year-old INC. The sooner he realises it, the better for him and the AAP.
Capt Raju Mathai, Kochi

Taxing YouTubers

The I-T department in Kerala has embarked on a good mission of making YouTubers accountable to I-T rules. They make money at the consumer's cost. What they upload is often commonplace, but is patronised by lakhs who mostly watch it as a hobby.
Geetha B K, Mangaluru

Kerala education

It is sad that Kerala, the first state to achieve full literacy and home to a knowledgeable lot, has slipped. Political interference in education is reported to be the cause of dwindling educational standards. There is a need for 'fire-fighting' and 'making amends' to restore the state's glory. Hope those concerned will realise the seriousness of the situation and take remedial actions.
R Sampath, Chennai

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TWEETS OF THE DAY

Ajay Maken @ajaymaken
His (Arvind Kejriwal's) proclamations of opposition unity are not for cohesion but a calculated move to sabotage it and curry favour with the BJP.

Aaditya Thackeray @AUThackeray
If shamelessness, incompetence and corruption had a face...It's disgraceful for him (Eknath Shinde) to rebuke Mumbaikars for complaining about water logging and collapse of civic machinery

Narendra Modi @narendramodi
The #DarkDaysOfEmergency remain an unforgettable period in our history, totally opposite to the values our Constitution celebrates.

Civil servants told not to take awards from pvt bodies

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

THE Centre has issued a directive prohibiting civil servants — including officers of the All India Services (AIS) such as the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Police Service, and Indian Forest Service — from accepting awards or recognition from private bodies, institutions or organisations in defiance of government guidelines.

The Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension has instructed the chief secretaries of all states, secretaries to various government departments, the Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to ensure proper implementation of these guidelines, issued on June 22.

The ministry, in an office memorandum, highlighted that it had observed members of the AIS accepting awards or recognitions from private bodies in disregard of the rules.

The government order stated that the practice of granting awards by private bodies and institutes to members of the AIS should not be encouraged, as the government itself has various methods to recognise the merits and services of these officers. Accepting an award from a private body would not be appropriate, it said.

However, the government has allowed AIS members to accept awards after obtaining prior approval from the relevant department's competent authority or the state government, following verification of the award-giving body's credentials.

The directive emphasized that such approval should be granted in exceptional circumstances, such as recognising an officer's merit for work done outside their government duties or when the government deems an individual officer deserving of a particular award. The Centre clarified that any approved award should not have a monetary component.

Drone deal done, pricing yet to be finalised: MoD

'Speculative reports' can harm acquisition, hit armed forces' morale

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

THE MQ-9B armed drones deal with the US is in process and "best price" will be negotiated once it goes through the US policy approval, said the Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Sunday. "Speculative media reports can have an adverse impact on the acquisition process," it said.

"The procurement is in progress and would be completed as per the laid down procedure," the Ministry added.

The MoD response came following reports that referred to the price and other terms of purchase, MoD said, adding these reports are uncalled for and can adversely impact the acquisition process.

These reports "have ulterior motives and are aimed at derailing the due acquisition process. The price and other terms and conditions of the purchase are yet to be finalised and subject to negotiations." MoD said, requesting "not to spread fake news/misinformation which can have a serious impact on the morale of the armed forces and adversely impact the acquisition process."

A SNAPSHOT OF THE ARMS DEAL

Defence Acquisition Council has accorded the Acceptance of Necessity for acquisition of 31 MQ-9B dorns from USA through Foreign Military Sale route

Of the 31 MQ-9B, 15 will go to the Indian Navy and rest 16 will be divided eight each between Army and Air Force

The overall deal is expected to cost around $3.5 billion with the drones and associated support services, once acquired

The drones can be armed with missiles and they can operate for around 30 hours in all weather conditions

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), on June 15, 2023, accorded the Acceptance of Necessity for acquisition of 31 MQ-9B (16 Sky Guardian and 15 Sea Guardian) High Altitude Long Endurance Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems for Tri-Services from the US through Foreign Military Sale route.

The Acceptance of Necessity included the number of UAVs to be procured along with associated equipment. It means the Centre has accepted the need for the equipment and is in the first step towards initiation of the procurement process. It noted the estimated cost of 3,072 million US dollars provided by the US government. But price will be negotiated once policy approval of the US government is received.

The MoD will compare the acquisition cost with the best price offered by General Atomics to other countries.

POWER GAMES

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Election 2024

GIG WORKFORCE IS NEW BATTLE ZONE FOR BJP, CONG

The millions of workers involved in India's gig economy, who are basically the on-call temporary workers such as plumbers, electricians, carpenters, construction workers, etc, have come on the radar of political parties. The BJP took note of this segment of the population and the problems faced by it and brought in a Code on Social Security in 2020. This code consolidated nine Central labour laws and widened the definition of employee to provide the benefits of social security to the unorganised gig workers. A bill was passed in both Houses of Parliament to make this code a law. The law, however, never came into force as the rules for its implementation were not framed. Meanwhile, the rise in the number of platform workers associated with the digital economy giants such as Amazon, Uber, Flipcart, etc gave rise to the demands from states that these companies provide for their Indian workers the same social security benefits that they give to the workers in other countries. Rahul Gandhi brought the issue centrestage by riding pillion with a delivery boy from Blinkit e-commerce company in Bangalore during the Karnataka state election. The Congress government in Rajasthan became the first to announce a welfare fund of ₹200 crore for gig workers in its Budget for 2023-24. Sources said other state governments are now busy drafting their own laws to provide security to their gig workforce. The central government too is reportedly moving fast to implement its 2020 code before the Lok Sabha election next year.

Southern Dilemma

BJP UNDECIDED AS JD(S) SENDS FEELERS FOR TIE-UP

The jury is out in the BJP on whether to join hands with the Janata Dal (Secular) which has sent many feelers to the party for an alliance in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections. Former Prime Minister and JD(S) founder H D Deve Gowda recently said at a press conference that there is no party that has not done business with the BJP. He said this when asked if his party was planning to contest the next Lok Sabha election in alliance with the BJP. Gowda broke ranks with the opposition parties and attended the inauguration of the new Parliament building. He has also stayed away from the efforts of the opposition parties to unite against the BJP in the next election. The JD(S) decision to look for a tieup with the BJP is a result of its dismal performance in the old Mysuru region, which was considered its stronghold. A large section of its traditional voters shifted to the Congress, which bagged 37 of the 59 assembly seats in the Vokkaliga-dominated south Karnataka. With deputy chief minister D K Shivakumar emerging as the new leader of Vokkaligas, the JD(S) leadership fears its revival would be a tough job. It is, therefore, keen on an alliance with the BJP. In the BJP, however, there is a view that the JD(S) is on the verge of extinction and its demise would be more beneficial than its revival. The party sees an opportunity for Karnataka turning into a bipolar state. Sources in the BJP said the alliance with the JD(S) will not get them more seats as the JD(S) support lies in one pocket of the state which it will claim for itself. The BJP is, therefore, not overly eager for an alliance with the regional party.

10 parties ask Centre to start talks and listen to all groups in Manipur

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ New Delhi

CRITICISING the Centre for not taking adequate measures to bring normalcy in Manipur, Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Sunday strongly pitched for dialogues with locals to earn trust and restore peace in the state.

"There are 35 different communities. You cannot have unanimity. You cannot have one view but you can have consensus. ...It is through consensus, only through listening to everybody and being sensitive that you can really restore trust. It is going to be a long process. It is not going to happen in weeks. It may take months, may be years, but we have to start the process," said Ramesh.

He was speaking at the National Convention on Peace in Manipur held in New Delhi, in which leaders of 10 "like-minded" political parties from Manipur also participated. Communist Party of India-Marxist's general secretary Sitaram Yechury, Communist Party of India's D Raja, former Manipur chief minister Okram Ibobi Singh attended the event, along with representatives of Aam Aadmi Party, Janata Dal (United), All India Forward Bloc, Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party and Revolutionary Socialist Party.

Former Manipur CM Okram Ibobi Singh, CPI's D Raja and AICC general secretary Jairam Ramesh at the 'National Convention on Peace in Manipur' in New Delhi | PARVEEN NEGI

He said that two fundamental steps need to be taken: one, disarm all armed groups ruthlessly and two, begin the process of creating an atmosphere of trust and reconciliation.

"Listen to people. Kukis have fear. Meiteis have fear. The Nagas have their own concerns. Minorities have their views. Listen to all of them. If you respond to them, you can create an atmosphere of trust and restore peace. Ibobi Singh took 10 years to restore some semblance of order and then the process of development was started," said Ramesh.

> **Kukis have fear. Meiteis have fear. The Nagas have their own concerns. Minorities have their views. Listen to all of them. If you respond to them, you can create an atmosphere of trust and restore peace**
>
> Jairam Ramesh, AICC general secretary

Centre fortifies narco wing with 10K portable analysers

AMIT MUKHERJEE @ New Delhi

THE Indian government will soon arm its anti-narcotics wings with at least 10,000 portable hand-held analysers that will enable sleuths of the customs, border control guards and personnel of other anti-drug cells to detect more than 400 categories of suspected, controlled and banned substances.

These high-valued contraband substances, it is suspected, are being innovatively smuggled undetected in large quantities. According to sources in the Ministry of Home Affairs, three companies that supply these analysers were called for demonstration in April this year before the nodal drug regulator Narcotics Control Bureau, Anti-Narcotic Task Forces and other anti-drug wings including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence to demonstrate the features of the equipment.

"The government has directed acquisition of this equipment of priority level A amidst instances of smugglers deploying innovative techniques which are extremely difficult to detect, except intel inputs," said a Delhi customs official. While the three companies - Serstech, Thermofisher and Rigaku - have given the demonstration of their products, the drug monitoring agencies have asked them to make modifications.

According to the latest report by the NCB, drug trafficking through sea routes in the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, estimated to account for around 70% of the total illegal drugs smuggled into India, "there is a significant number of consignments which are being re-routed through African nations which are coming in undetected due to innovative means with young peddlers including students being engaged in it," said the MHA official. The analysers, in the process of being procured, would definitely equip the anti-drug sleuths in a better way, he added.

The acquisition of these analysers has become urgent in the wake of a recent drug haul in which a young Kenyan woman was arrested at the Delhi airport for smuggling cocaine dissolved in two whiskey bottles she was carrying. The accused was intercepted following a tip-off after her arrival from Addis Ababa (Ethiopia).

Study on to detect neuro disorders in kids

KAVITA BAJELI-DATT @ New Delhi

ONE in eight children aged two to nine years in India is said to be affected with neuro developmental disorders, adversely affecting their cognitive and behavioural development.

To address this issue, researchers at Ashoka University, in collaboration with Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital in New Delhi, are developing early-warning metrics that can predict cognitive or other neuro developmental differences in high-risk infants.

Thanks to this collaboration, RML Hospital has established India's first-of-its-kind infant laboratory to conduct research studies in developmental and behavioural paediatrics related to early identification and intervention for high-risk infants by improving their neuro developmental outcomes.

This is important to advance the quality and continuum of care available to high-risk infants and their families. The project aims to pinpoint objective measures that are reliable to red flag or predict any risks for potential developmental delays in high-risk infants. These critically ill and fragile newborn babies need prolonged hospitalisation and require special healthcare or dependence on technology to save them and reduce medical morbidities.

The early risks are caused by adversity during pregnancy leading to preterm births or low birth weight or other risks caused during or after delivery and can affect brain growth.

These can manifest at later stages as developmental differences affecting their linguistic development, cognitive abilities, social-emotional growth, or an overall delay across multiple areas of development.

For early identification, clinicians require assessment tools to help detect these neuro developmental differences.

To assess the cognitive processes in high-risk infants, researchers use non-invasive and easy-to-use techniques like eye-tracking. Eyes are a window to the brain. By recording eye movements, it becomes possible to accurately assess cognitive processes to catch any anomalies in brain functions starting from three months.

According to Madhavilatha Maganti, Assistant Professor of Psychology at Ashoka University, "The first two years are incredible as babies achieve milestones from crawling to sitting to walking, and from cooing to saying their first words. Infants are busy exploring and learning, developing their motor skills, and beginning to communicate with the world around them. This is the most important period of the lifespan, laying the foundation for future physical, cognitive, and linguistic abilities."

According to studies, the prevalence of neuro developmental disorders in children aged from 2-9 years ranges from 12-18%. A study showed that one in every eight children in India might be at a higher risk for one or the other conditions like vision impairments, epilepsy or seizures, neuromotor impairments like cerebral palsy, hearing impairments, speech and language disorders, autism spectrum disorders, intellectual disability, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, and learning disorders.

"We want to understand how this developmental feat happens and look at how the brain changes and adapts to support this remarkable developmental change. Infant neural development is rapid, and infants' brains are incredibly plastic in the first year of life," Maganti told this newspaper.

Most of the current tools are less than ideal and rely heavily on motor development.

CATCH THEM ON TIME

A study shows that 1 in every eight children in India might be at a higher risk for one or the other conditions like vision impairments, epilepsy or seizures

Ashoka University is in collaboration with Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital to develop early-warning metrics that can predict cognitive or other neuro differences

Early risks caused by adversity during pregnancy leading to preterm birth or low birth weight or other risks during or after delivery and can affect brain

RML Hospital has established India's first-of-its-kind infant laboratory toconduct studies in developmental and behavioural paediatrics

Honeywell spots big opportunity in India's drone flight

HRITHIK KIRAN BAGADE @ Bengaluru

AMERICAN tech conglomerate Honeywell is betting big on the drone opportunity that India presents, with plans to set up a dedicated open-air lab to test small drones in the coming months.

"We are upbeat about the opportunities that will come by in the short run, in the UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) space, including drones. We will participate by collaborating with the manufacturers of these drones by supplying components and solutions. We are ready with the infrastructure, and will see results, based on how the market evolves. We are doing investments towards all of that," Honeywell Technology Solutions Vice-President, Aero India Leader Niranjan Kalyandurg said.

While there are opportunities galore in the commercial drone space, Honeywell is largely bullish on the defence arena. "From a drone point of view, we are seeing how we can partner with the local environment; where we can play a bigger role for serving India's defence needs," Kalyandurg elaborated.

He, however, said the company does not manufacture drones, but only components that go into their making. The company works with various partners, who in turn work with the Indian Armed Forces, and has accordingly signed strategic partnerships with local players.

Niranjan Kalyandurg

Currently, Honeywell is also doing some work in the realm of anti-jamming technologies. Worldwide, drones typically use the Global Positioning System (GPS) to effectively navigate and hover during flight. But if they encounter any jammers, they could get confused, hence anti-jamming technologies are in the works.

Test lab at Madurai

Honeywell Technology Solutions is on the path to unveil a state-of-the-art Advanced Air Mobility Outdoor Test Lab in Madurai, sometime in August or September this year. The 40,000 sqft facility, which will have a net covering it at a height of 80 feet, will be part of Honeywell Madurai, and will have an indoor and outdoor setting.

"The test facility, which will come up next to our existing facility in Madurai, will be used for testing small drones. As part of our plans, we would approach our OEMs (original equipment manufacturers), who would be doing the testing, and we will be a part of that testing," Kalyandurg said.

"We have global customers among drone-makers. In India, local startups will use the open-air test facility. As engineers, it is also open to us to test our customers' products," he added.

In India, drones are in use across various applications – aerial cinematography, land surveys, agriculture, mining, disaster management, construction, mapping, and defence. According to market data provider Statista, revenues in the Indian drone market amount to $23.62 million in 2023, with the market expected to grow at a CAGR of 7.55 per cent during 2023-28.

ASSAM FLOODS

More than 120 people were rescued and shifted to safer places in Assam by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) which has deployed ten teams to undertake flood relief operations in the state, an official said.

04 HELD FOR DEATH OF TWO LABOURERS IN DRAIN IN MAHA

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	42	27	Mumbai	35	29
Bhopal	43	28	Panaji	32	28
Jaipur	41	30	Patna	41	27
Amritsar	40	23	Lucknow	42	27
Chennai	39	30	Port Blair	34	28
Kolkata	36	26	Imphal	23	18
Srinagar	18	08	Chandigarh	42	23

Nath had role in Emergency, says BJP

BJP says Cong chief in Madhya Pradesh implemented the draconian measures in 1975

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bhopal

On the 48th anniversary of the imposition of Emergency by the Indira Gandhi-led Congress government, the ruling BJP in poll-bound Madhya Pradesh, alleged on Sunday that former state chief minister and current state Congress chief **Kamal Nath** played an important role in "murdering democracy" in 1975.

"Kamal Nath and former Haryana CM Bansi Lal were the main implementing agencies of the atrocities unleashed by Indira Gandhi and her son Sanjay Gandhi during the 1975 Emergency," said BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh in Bhopal.

"The democratic voice was crushed, the entire country was turned into a jail for those, including journalists, who raised their voices against the Emergency. It's unfortunate that the former MP CM Kamal Nath played an important role along with Sanjay Gandhi in murdering democracy through Emergency. The 8.5 crore people of MP want to know from Nath, about the role played by him in the imposition of emergency and the consequent murder of democracy 48 years ago," state BJP chief **VD Sharma** said.

While raising the issue of Nath's alleged involvement in 1984 anti-Sikh riots, BJP national secretary Tarun Chugh said, "A reputed journalist who was present and clicking pictures, while rioters attacked Gurudwara Rakab Ganj in Delhi, has stated before a Delhi court that Kamal Nath was leading a mob of rioters. But to date, neither the Congress nor Kamal Nath, has responded to the statements of the senior journalist made before the court. We want to know from the Congress leadership as well as the MP Congress, about the real face of Kamal Nath in the 1984 anti-Sikh riot case."

This isn't the first time that the MP BJP has alleged Nath's involvement in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Last month, the same allegations were made by state BJP president VD Sharma as well as MP cabinet minister Vishvas Sarang. The state BJP chief had even claimed that the CBI and Central agencies will shortly charge the former MP CM in a similar manner as they've charge-sheeted Tytler in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case.

Responding to BJP's allegations about his role in the targeted killings of Sikhs in 1984 in the wake of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination, Nath, while rubbishing those allegations had said last month, "In my 45-year political career, no one has raised a finger against me. The riots happened in 1984, but no FIR has been lodged against me. Even the Commission formed by the erstwhile BJP government at the Centre found me innocent in the entire matter. Now with nothing left to attack me, BJP leaders, like state party chief VD Sharma, are raising the issue just to cover their own 'do number ke kaam (shady deeds)."

Meanwhile, two days ahead of Prime Minister Modi's visit, Kamal Nath said on Sunday, "This poll is about CM Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Then why are they (BJP) diverting the attention from him through this (PM's visit)?."

"PM Modi is coming, later home minister Amit Shah will also come to MP, let them all come here and put their best efforts. We too are putting our best efforts, but one thing is clear that both I and the people of the state are fighting against the BJP," Nath said.

NOT THE FIRST ALLEGATION

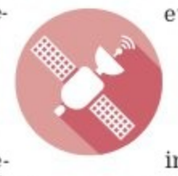
This isn't the first time that the MP BJP has alleged Nath's involvement in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Last month, the same allegations were made by state BJP president VD Sharma as well as MP cabinet minister Vishvas Sarang. The state BJP chief had even claimed that the CBI and Central agencies will shortly charge the former MP CM in a similar manner as they've charge-sheeted Tytler in a 1984 anti-Sikh riots case.

Artemis Accords could aid resource sharing for Chandrayaan

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

WITH the Chandrayaan-3 launch just a few weeks away, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during his visit to the US, signed the Artemis Accords, a multilateral American-led effort on responsible space exploration to the Moon.

The Artemis Accords, led by the US, is an agreement between several countries to return humans to the Moon by 2025, as well as a set of agreements to ensure responsible exploration of the Moon, including clauses on space mining.



The Accords have several stipulations related to Moon exploration, apart from transfer of knowledge. The Accords have many principles related to transparency on moon exploration, registration of space objects, preservation of heritage sites in outer space, sustainable extraction of space resources, and rendering of emergency assistance.

Currently, the Accords have 27 co-signatories, with India being the latest.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) confirmed the launch of Chandrayaan-3 date as July 12.

The mission will be the third under the Chandrayaan programme, which will eventually go into the territory of drilling, sampling and researching lunar materials.

While India has focused on an indigenously built space sector, the collaboration also gives India access to resources from multiple avenues, with ISRO head S Somnath also stating that the intention of self-reliance does not mean we do everything ourselves. This has already begun, with both ISRO and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) collaborating to establish a permanent laboratory on the International Space Station (ISS).

In terms of the Chandrayaan-3 mission, while knowledge sharing was already a term in previous collaborations with other countries, this will also be extended to resource sharing. Meanwhile, with the Indian human spaceflight programme, Gaganyaan, expected to begin towards the end of 2023, the Accords could also accelerate India's efforts to put a human in space.

LUCKNOW DIARY

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IIT Kanpur turns rain-maker

IIT-Kanpur has successfully tested a technology based on cloud seeding to induce artificial rain to help the parched regions of the state, especially, Bundelkhand, comprising seven districts including Jhansi, Banda, Mahoba, Lalitpur, Chitrakoot, Jalaun and Hamirpur. On Wednesday, a plane soared to 5,000 feet from the prestigious institute for the purpose of cloud seeding, firing powder spray amid thick clouds, which resulted in rain. Professor Manindra Agrawal of department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT-Kanpur, who accurately predicted the impact of Covid-19 waves, is supervising this project.

Uncivil act on civic body's FB page

The Facebook of Varanasi Municipal Corporation came out with a shocker on Saturday. Upon opening the account in the morning for info on properties taxes and other utility services, people were 'welcomed' by porn videos. When shocked residents lodged a flurry of complaints, the civic body swung into action. After a police complaint, the people at the back end tried to get the account freed from the clutches of hackers. But before they could get success, the video played for a few hours. Varanasi Municipal Commissioner Shipu Giri confirmed hacking and that required steps had been taken.

Ayodhya airport to take off in October

Ayodhya's Maryada Purushottam Shri Ram Airport is likely to get operational by October this year. The inauguration will take place almost three months before a grand Ram Temple is dedicated to the people by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. With night and fog landing facilities in place, the DGCA is likely to grant licence to the ambitious airport for the first phase of operations to the airport. After they are granted licences, commercial operations can start from the airport. The airport has a runway which is 2,200-metre long. It will be able to handle planes as big as Airbus A 320, ATR-72 and Bombardier private jets.

1. Devotees in raincoats visit the Kedarnath temple amid rain, in Rudraprayag; 2. A biker drives in rain in Kolkata; 3. A flooded area following heavy showers in Mandi district of Himachal Pradesh; 4. Damaged vehicles after they were swept away in Himachal's Kullu. | PTI

Mumbai flooded in first rain spell, sparks another political slugfest

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

AFTER Mumbaikars repeatedly complained of water logging and traffic snarls, Maharashtra chief minister Eknath Shinde on Sunday said that people should stop cribbing and welcome the rain.

The first episode of monsoon rain on Sunday saw most parts of Mumbai waterlogged with most roads being gridlocked. Politics too overflowed with Opposition alleging that the government that runs the civic body BMC, too, has been exposed. In a house collapse, two people died in a western suburb on Sunday.

Shinde since morning visited many critical spots such as the Milan subway in western suburbs and inspected the ongoing maintenance work.

Shinde said the BMC has installed pumps to drain out the excess rainwater so that low lying areas of Mumbai are not flooded. He said the Milan subway had 70 mm rainfall in an hour: "The BMC has put in place a system to bring the situation under control," he said.

"We have also activated the system that will help during high tide as well. The BMC is monitoring the situation," Shinde said.

When asked about people's complaints about water logging in the first rain of the season, Shinde said the rain should be welcomed. "Why complain about water logging? There is enough time to malign us over the water logging issue. Wherever water logging is reported, BMC employees are on the ground to address it," Shinde said.

Sharply reacting to the CM's statement, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Aditya Thackeray it was the "height of shamelessness." "It shows how insensitive our illegal chief minister is? So, as per the CM, people should not raise their voice and complain against the wrongdoings and faulty work of the BMC. Corruption in drain-cleaning and road constructions have been reported," said Aaditya.

"The Shiv Sena (UBT)-ruled BMC for several years, but never asked people not to complain," said Aaditya.

ARMY IN MOSQUE?

Former CMs seek probe into incident

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Srinagar

THE politicians in Jammu and Kashmir including three former Chief Ministers have demanded a thorough probe into the army men allegedly storming a mosque in south Kashmir's Pulwama district and forcing the people in the mosque to chant "Jai Shri Ram".

The incident took place in a mosque in Zadoora village of Pulwama district in the wee hours of June 24. "As the people had assembled in the mosque to offer dawn (Fajar) prayers, an army of men stormed into mosque and forced people to chant 'Jai Shri Ram' slogans," reports alleged.

The incident took place when Union Home Minister Amit Shah was on two-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir. The former J&K CM and PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti was the first to raise the issue. "Such a move when @AmitShah is here & that too ahead of yatra is simply an act of provocation. Request @RgGhai to immediately set up a probe (sic)," Mehbooba tweeted.

Lost 56 lives in battle with security forces in 1 year: Maoists in Bengal

PRANAB MONDAL @ Kolkata

BREAKING silence for the second time in the recent past, outlawed outfit CPI(Maoist) claimed to have lost its 56 operatives, including 28 women, in gun-battle with security forces in past one year and gave a call to observe "Martyrs' Memorial Week" from July 28 to August 3 which has led law enforcing forces to issue an alert.

Describing the BJP as a Hindutva ruler, a statement issued by the rebel organisation's central committee admitted that the security agency's technical intelligence system is posing more danger as it has penetrated the rebels' supply channel using electronic devices.

The intelligence wings are considering the Maoists' call to observe the Martyrs' Memorial Week with utmost priority as there are chances of attacks by the rebel outfit during the period. Sources, in the West Bengal intelligence agencies said that are coming across information about the frequent movement of

Maoists in Jungle Mahal, especially along the Bengal-Jharkhand border areas.

Last year, outfit broke silence after 11 years and issued a statement saying in the previous year, its 124 armed soldiers were killed during Samadhan-Prahar, an operation to decimate People's Liberation Guerrilla Army (PLGA), the armed wing of Maoists, which include a politburo member and a central committee member and 30 women.

Maoists had also claimed that the outlawed outfit was involved in the massive farmers' parade in Delhi last year.

In the last statement, the CPI(Maoist)'s central committee said, "Technical intelligence is posing more danger. It penetrated our supply channels utilising the electronic device we use and identifying the guerrilla forces, especially our party leadership, through various kinds of trackers. Therefore, our foremost precaution must be to see that the enemy doesn't know our location."

The leadership also suggested to intensify political, organisational and "military' effort to combat the security forces' assault.

Though the revels are maintaining silence in Bengal's Jungle Mahal, the backward region in southern part of the state, the security agencies active here are coming across frequent covert movement in villages located in dense forests along Bengal Jharkhand border in Purulia and Jhargram districts.

Infiltration up; 12 militants killed in 8 days

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

THERE has been a surge in infiltration attempts from across the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir and 12 heavily armed militants have been killed after troops foiled three infiltration attempts by militants in eight days.

The surge in infiltration attempts began from May and the trend continued in June. Five infiltration bids have taken place along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir during this month. Of the five infiltration bids, three have taken place in Kashmir (two in Machil and another in Keran sector) and two in border district of Poonch in Jammu region.

The troops while foiling these five infiltration bids killed 14 militants -- 11 in Kashmir and 3 in Poonch.

Large cache of arms and ammunition including assault rifles, pistols, IEDs and narcotics were recovered by troops from possession of the slain militants. Five infiltration bids by militants also took place in May. Of these five infiltration bids, two took place in Kashmir and three in Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu region.

5 infiltration bids have taken place on LoC in J&K during this month | FILE

In these five infiltration bids, seven militants were killed.

A security official said due to the prevailing political and economic crisis in the neighbouring country, Pakistan army is trying to push militants into Kashmir to keep the militancy pot boiling in Kashmir to shift focus from internal strife to Kashmir.

He said security men deployed at the LoC and International Border (IB) are at the highest mode of alert to foil any infiltration attempts by militants and give befitting reply to cross-border ceasefire violations, if any, by Pakistani troops.

In view of increased threat of infiltration attempts by militants, the counter infiltration grid components are being strengthened to foil each and every attempt of infiltration by militants from across the LoC.

"The regular review of components of the counter infiltration grid is being held and it is being strengthened as per the need by adding more security components to detect and foil infiltration attempts at the frontiers," he said.

The human and technical intelligence is also playing a key role in foiling the infiltration bids and foiling nefarious designs of Pakistan.

RIFLES, PISTOLS, IEDS, NARCOTICS RECOVERED

Large cache of arms and ammunition including assault rifles, pistols, IEDs and narcotics were recovered by troops from possession of the slain militants. Five infiltration bids by militants also took place in May. Of these five infiltration bids, two took place in Kashmir and three in Rajouri and Poonch districts of Jammu region. In these five bids, seven militants were killed. A security official said due to the prevailing political and economic crisis, Pakistan army is trying to push militants to keep militancy pot boiling in Kashmir.

GLOBAL WEATHER

City	Max	Min		City	Max	Min	
Beijing	31	18	TDS	Los Angeles	20	14	LC
Colombo	31	26	LC	Melbourne	15	11	HR
Dhaka	34	28	TDS	Moscow	20	8	HR
Dubai	39	30	SNY	New York	23	18	LC
Houston	36	25	SNY	Singapore	32	28	TDS
Istanbul	24	18	LC	Toronto	20	13	LC
London	28	16	LC	Washington	25	15	LC

LR: Light Rain ● HR: Heavy Rain ● SW: Snow ● TDS: Thundershower ● LC: Light Cloud ● SNY: Sunny

Deal puts Prigozhin in more repressive nation

TALLINN

RUSSIAN mercenary boss Yevgeny Prigozhin was notorious for unbridled and profane challenges to authority even before the attempted rebellion that he mounted on Saturday. The reported agreement for him to go into exile in Belarus would place him in a country where such behaviour is even less acceptable than in his homeland.

Prigozhin on Sunday was uncharacteristically silent as his Wagner private army forces pulled back from Russian cities after a Kremlin announcement that he had agreed to depart for Belarus; it remains unclear whether he's actually there.

Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko reportedly negotiated the deal, and Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Saturday that Lukashenko "has been acquainted with Mr. Prigozhin for a long time, at least 20 years. But Prigozhin's maverick ways are at odds with Lukashenko's harsh repression of dissent and independent media.

"It is not yet clear what Lukashenko is going to do with Prigozhin. I think they don't have an understanding themselves." exiled Belarusian opposition leader Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya told *Associated Press*.

"Lukashenko once again has made Belarus a hostage to other people's games and wars. He is by no means a peacemaker."

"Prigozhin leaving for Belarus does not mean that Prigozhin will stay there. There's nothing for him to do in Belarus—arrive, exhale, use the corridor and move on," said Artem Shraibman, a Belarusian political analyst.

The Belarus deal removes Prigozhin's control of Wagner, but it's unclear whether any of his fighters would follow him to Belarus, either out of a sense of loyalty or due to dismay with being absorbed into the Russian military as contract soldiers.

"These personnel could potentially sign contracts with the MoD on an individual basis, demobilize in Russia ... (or) travel to Belarus in some capacity," the Institute for the Study of War think tank said.

If in Belarus, there would be concerns about whether they could get access to the Russian battlefield nuclear weapons. Dmitry Medvedev, the deputy head of Russia's security council, was worried about them gaining control of Russian weapons as the uprising roiled on Saturday. *AP*

Beijing is upping the ante in South China Sea: Taiwan

The Chinese threat in the South China Sea is increasing significantly as a large number of armed maritime militias are operating in the region at China's behest besides its deployment of an array of warships and other military assets, Taiwanese Foreign Minister Jaushieh Joseph Wu said. Wu also cited China's growing military activities in the Indian Ocean Region including its attempt to control key ports in Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Djibouti and hoped that New Delhi is paying "close attention" to it. In an interaction, the Taiwanese foreign minister said the countries having stakes in the South China Sea must join hands in combating the challenge emanating from China's rising military muscle-flexing in the region. PTI

EXPRESS READ

Lanka holds talks with China over crisis

Beijing: Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Ali Sabry on Sunday held talks with his Chinese counterpart Qin Gang here on the future trajectory of the bilateral ties and his country's serious economic crisis. Sabry is visiting China for the first time after Sri Lanka's debt crisis led to massive political turmoil. An official readout of the meeting between the two leaders quoted Qin calling for promoting the joint construction of Belt and Road (BRI) projects.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General public is hereby notified that our client Sakthinarayanan M is intending to purchase the schedule property from T.Babu and intending to avail loan from Wonder Home Finance Limited.

If any person or persons or financial institution or Bank has any claim over the schedule property or any person or persons claim any right, title or interest, over the schedule property, the same may be lodged with the undersigned within seven days from today, along with relevant documents, failing which it will be presumed that the schedule property is free from any such claim and any claim received thereafter will not bind my client and would not be considered by my client.

SCHEDULE :

All that piece and parcel of the for Site No.33, Assessment No.66, Situated at Kammagondanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, measuring East to West: 40 ft, North to South: 30 ft, and bounded on; East - Property No.32, West - Property No.34, North - Road, South - Property No.40.

V.L. Associates
Advocates
No.56, Out house, 19th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010.
Ph: 9481900851/ 9743323668.
Place: Bangalore Date: 23.06.2023

DEMAND NOTICE

Under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (the said Act.) read with Rule 3(1) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (the said Rules). In exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(12) of the said Act read with Rule 3 of the said Rules, the **Authorised Officer of IIFL Home Finance Ltd. (IIFL HFL) (Formerly known as India Infoline Housing Finance Ltd.)** has issued Demand Notices under section 13(2) of the said Act, calling upon the Borrower(s), to repay the amount mentioned in the respective Demand Notice(s) issued to them. In connection with above, notice is hereby given, once again, to the Borrower(s) to pay within **60 days** from the publication of this notice, the amounts indicated herein below, together with further interest from the date(s) of Demand Notice till the date of payment. The detail of the Borrower(s), amount due as on date of Demand Notice and security offered towards repayment of loan amount are as under:

Name of the Borrower(s)/ Guarantor (s)	Demand Notice Date & Amount	Description of secured asset (immovable property)
Mr.Somasundram M, Mrs.Yamuna R **(Prospect No 902737 & 933626 & 953710)**	**21-Jun-2023 & Rs.12,76,290/-** (Rupees Twelve Lakh Seventy Six Thousand Two Hundred Ninety Only) for **902737 & Rs.13,062/-** (Rupees Thirteen Thousand Sixty Two Only) for **933626 & Rs.1,09,759/-** (Rupees One Lakh Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Nine Only) for **953710**	All that piece and parcel of the property being: Land with existing Dilapidated Structure being Corporation Number Old A/2, New No. 3, Land area Ad.Measuring: 1033 Sq.ft, Carpet area Ad.Measuring: 1033 Sq.ft, Built up area Ad.Measuring: 1808 Sq.ft, Situated at 1st Cross Gowthampuram I Stage II off Artilary Road Ulsoor, Bangalore, Karnataka, 560008. Bounded by:North: Private Property, South: Road, East: Sugandaraj's Property, West: Prabhakaran's Property.
Mr. Nilakantanagoud Vijayendragoud Siddesha Mrs.Soumya Bellary, Shri Nvs Enterprises **(Prospect No IL10107314 and IL10246751)**	**22-Jun-2023 & Rs.35,67,684/-** (Rupees Thirty Five Lakh Sixty Seven Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Four Only) for **IL10107314 & Rs.12,39,246/-** (Rupees Twelve Lakh Thirty Nine Thousand Two Hunderd forty Six Only) for **IL10246751**	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Flat No. B3-3D-1303, Floor No. 13, B3-3D, Provident Park Square Phase 4, Sy No 3/3,7,8,9/2A,9/2B&26/1(P), Carpet area 900 sq. ft., Saleable area 1125 sq. ft., Mallasandra Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South. Bounded By: North: Sy. No. 3/1, Sy. No. 3/2 and Sy. No. 9/1, South: Sy. No. 8/2, Portion of Sy. No. 9/2B1 and Sy. No. 26/1(P), East: Land relinquished for Road, West: Portion of Sy. No. 3/3, Sy. No. 7, and Sy. No. 8/1.
Mrs.Farzana Almas, Mrs.Faiza Fathima Mr.Mohammed Salman, Mr.Mohammed Suhail, Mrs.Najam Kousar, Mrs.Nuzhath Fathima, Reesha Furnitures **(Prospect No 976047)**	**22-Jun-2023** **Rs.57,81,392/-** (Rupees Fifty Seven Lakh Eighty One Thousand Three Hundred Ninety Two Only)	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Southern Portion bearing present Municipal Numbers 12, 13, 14, 17, Area ad measuring 1296 sq. ft., Land Area ad measuring 1037 sq. ft., Carpet Area ad measuring 1762 sq. ft., Built up Area ad measuring 2074 sq. ft., Situated in Central Street, Shivajinagar, Corporation Division No. 70, Bangalore, 560001, Karnataka, India. Bounded by: North: Property proposed to be sold to Ismail Sharif, South: Shukoor Buildings, East: Central Street, West: Property of Balaji Complex.
Mr.Raghavendra Rama chandra Gopadi, Mr.Gopadi Ramachandra Athwar Gururaj, Mr.Gopadi Venkatachalaiah, Ramachandra, Mrs. Ramachandra Ramya M/S RG Construction, Vadhiraj G R **(Prospect No IL10286320 & 971927)**	**22-Jun-2023 & Rs.21,29,782/-** (Rupees Twenty One Lakh Twenty Nine Thousand Seven Hundred EightyTwo Only) for **IL10286320 & Rs.42,51,173/-** (Rupees Forty Two Lakh Fifty One Thousand One Hundred Seventy Three Only) for **971927**	All that piece and parcel of the property being : Western Portion of Site No. 2 & 3 , PID No. 12-42-2 & 3 , Katha No. W/44/PR/90/2021-22 , Area Ad Measuring 1240 Sq. Ft., and Katha No. W/44/PR/89/2021-22, Area ad measuring 940 Sq. Ft. , 1st cross , situated at Jarakabande Kaval Village , Yelahanka Hobli , Bangalore 560096. Bounded By : North : Site No.1, South : Remaing Portion of Land in same site No., East : Remaing Portion of Land in same site No, West : Road.

If the said Borrowers fail to make payment to IIFL HFL as aforesaid, IIFL HFL may proceed against the above secured assets under Section 13(4) of the said Act, and the applicable Rules, entirely at the risks, costs and consequences of the Borrowers. For, further details please contact to Authorised Officer at **Branch Office: "Adam Chambers", #11, Richmond Road, Bengaluru-560025** / or **Corporate Office: IIFL Tower,** Plot No. 98, Udyog Vihar, Ph-IV Gurgaon, Haryana.

Place: Bangalore, Date: 26.06.2023 Sd/- Authorised Officer, For IIFL Home Finance Ltd

IN THE CITY CIVIL COURT OF BENGALURU AT BENGALURU
PETITION FOR PROBATE OF A WILL
P & SC. NO. 265/2023 (CCH. 18)

(Petition for probate of the Last Will and Testament dated 14.10.2009 & First Codicil dated 11.08.2014 of Sri Kodavoor Krishna Moorthy Upadhya S/o. late K. Shankaranarayana Upadhya, since deceased, resident of No. 766, 53rd main, Kumaraswamy Layout, Stage I, Bengaluru - 560 078).

BETWEEN:

1. Canara Bank a Body Corporate constituted Under the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Under Tankings) Act 1970, having its Head Office at No. 112, J. C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002, and one of its Branch Offices called as "Wills Department Executor, Trustee & Taxation Section", No. 112, Head Office, J. C. Road, Bengaluru - 560 027, Represented by its Officer and Authorised Signatory Smt. P. S. Shantha Lakshmi W/o.Sri Sreesh G. R. aged about 55 years - ...Executor

2. Sri Jayaram U. K. S/o. Late K. Shankaranarayana Upadhya, Aged about 60 years, R/at No. 471, 3rd Cross, 8th Main , Bharath Housing Society Ltd., Layout, Chikkallasandra, Uttarahalli, Bengaluru- 560 061, Aadhaar No. 5371 8883 7829 ...Co-Executor

3. Sri K. Vadiraja Upadhya, S/o. Sri K. Krishnamurthy Upadhya, Aged about 58 years, Residing at No. 766, 53rd Main Road, Opp.: Police Station Kumaraswamy Layout, 1st Stage, Bengaluru - 560 078, Aadhaar No. 7346 3845 2698- **Benificiary under the Will.**

4. Sri Giri K. V. S/o. late K. Krishnamurthy Upadhya, Aged about 55 years, Residing at No. 22, "Aprameya", 3rd Cross Road, BSK 5th Stage, Bikasipura, JP Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560 078, Aadhaar No. 2718 8734 2608 -**Benificiary under the Will.**

5. Mrs.Chaya K. Upadhya, W/o. Sri Chandrakanth K.V. Aged about 54 years, R/at No. 2/9, Type -9, Gunatha Vihar, DGQA Residential Complex, Bengaluru North, J.C. Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 006, Aadhaar No. 6752 7279 2845, **Benificiary under the Will.**

6. Mrs.Maya Krishnamurthy, W/o. Sri Kiran Thanthri K. Aged about 52 years, Residing at No. 788, 5th A Cross, 11th Main Vijaya Bank Layout, Bengaluru - 560 076 Aadhaar No. 2883 1739 6771 **Benificiary under the Will.** ....Petitioners

AND

NIL ...Respondent

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the Petitioners have filed the above petition Under Sections 217 and 227, of the Indian Succession Act for grant of Probate in their names in respect of the schedule items of the deceased Kodavur Krishnamurthy Upadhya who died on 16.03.2022.

Interested parties are hereby notified to appear in the court in person or by pleader duly instructed on the **27th day of July 2023 at 10.45 A. M.** to show cause against the above petition, failing which the matter will be heard and determined in your absence.

Details of the Immovable Properties stands in the name of Late Kodavur Krishnamurthy Upadhya

Schedule A Property : All that piece and parcel of the House property bearing No. 766, 53rd Main Road, Kumaraswamy Layout, Stage -I, Bengaluru - 560 078, measuring East to West 39 feet 6 inches and North to South 25 feet, together with the residential building constructed thereon in the ground floor and bounded on the East by : Site No. 722, West by : Road, North by : Site No. 765 & South by : C. A. Area.

Schedule 'B' Property : All that piece and parcel of the residential site bearing No. 719, intermediate measuring East by : 40 feet, West by : 40 feet, North by : 30 feet and South by : 30 feet, totally measuring 1200 square feet, situated at Vajarahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, and bounded on the East by : Site No. 720, West by : Site No. 718, North by : Road, South by : Site No. 711 & 712.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on this the 15 th day of June 2023.

Advocate for Petitioner:
K. Ashwathnarayana, , Advocate
No. 208, 2nd Floor, Olety Building, No. 30-38, Diagonal Road, V V. Puram, Bengaluru - 560 004

By Order of the Court
Sd/- Asst. Registrar
City Civil Court, Bangalore

FORM NO.URC-2
Advertisement giving notice about registration under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Act
[Pursuant to section 374(b) of the Companies Act, 2013 and rule 4(1) of the Companies (Authorised to Register) Rules, 2014]

1. Notice is hereby given that in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 366 of the Companies Act, 2013, an application has been made to the Registrar of Companies at Bengaluru that "MINDSTORM INFRAVENTURES LLP " a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) may be registered under Part I of Chapter XXI of the Companies Act 2013, as a company limited by shares.
2. The principal objects of the company are as follows:
To carry on the business activity of procuring, supplying, sale of Concrete and all related products, construction of residential and commercial buildings, acquiring, aggregating, buying, developing, selling land and buildings, both residential and commercial; consultancy services, management and maintenance of properties and related activities.
To carry on the business of trading of concrete and all related products.
3. A copy of the draft memorandum and articles of association of the proposed company may be inspected at the office at No.912 & 913,9th Floor, Barton Center, M G Road, Bangalore-560001, Karnataka.
4. Notice is hereby given that any person objecting to this application may communicate their objection in writing to the Registrar at Central Registration Centre (CRC), Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Plot No. 6,7, 8, Sector 5, IMT Manesar, District Gurgaon (Haryana), Pin Code-122050, within twenty-one days from the date publication of this notice, with a copy to the company at its registered office.

Dated this 24th day of June 2023.
For MINDSTORM INFRAVENTURES LLP

Sd/-	Sd/-
B G SHETTY	J SRINIVAS
PARTNER	PARTNER
DIN: 03596173	DIN: 09247336

IN THE COURT OF THE 13th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL AT BANGALORE
O.S. No.25247/2021 (CCH-22)

1. Smt. **MUMTAZUNNISA,** W/o late. B. Mohammed Saifulla, aged 55 years, No. 16 C Street. 2. **SHAEIK MOHAMMED SADIQULLA,** S/o late B. Mohammed Saifulla, aged 29 years, No.16 C Street, 3. **SHAEIK MOHAMMED SAYEEDULLA,** S/o late B. Mohammed Saifulla, aged 29 years, No.16 C Street, All residents of No.16 C Street, 3rd floor, Haines Road, Cleveland Town, Frazer Town, Bengaluru- 560005.... **PLAINTIFFS**

-V/s-

1. **Smt. TASKEEN FATHIMA,** W/o late Sheikh Mohammed Saheedulla, aged 31 years, 2. **Kum. SARAH NIDA,** D/o late Sheikh Mohammed Saheedulla, aged 11 years, 3. **Kum. SHAIMA RIDA SAIF,** D/o late Sheikh Mohammed Saheedulla, aged 8 years, 4. **Master. S.M. SAIFULLA,** S/o late Sheikh Mohammed Saheedulla, aged 7 years.

No.02 to 04 is Minors Rep. by mother & Natural Guardian Smt. Taskeen Fathima, No.01 to 04 R/at. No.20, 14th Cross, Near Farida Shoe Factory, Fathima Layout, Govindpura, Bangalore-560045. ... **DEFENDANTS**

Whereas Plaintiff has instituted above case against you to appear in person or through pleader before the 13th Addl City Civil Judge. Mayohall at Bengaluru CCH:22 and have adjourned the case on dt: **08/08/2023** at **11:00 A.M** for your appearance. In default of appearance on the day mentioned above, the case will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Residential Property bearing MC Old No.16A & 16B New independent No.16, situated at 'C' street, Cleveland Town, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-560005 to the extent of Ground floor measures 1363.56 square second floor measures 1363.56 square feet & Third floor measures 1875 square feet, out of total, land measuring 5965.5 square feet

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on dt 19/06/2023

By order of the court, Deputy Registrar City Civil Court, Mayohall Unit, Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
AFIF LAW ASSOCIATES
No. 72/1, 8th Main, Vasanthnagar, Bangalore-560052.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is hereby informed that our clients intend to purchase the Residential site mentioned in the Schedule hereunder from its owner, **Sri. G. Janardhana Raja, S/o.Smt. Anjana Devi Prasad,** residing at No.274, 7th 'A' Main, 5th Cross, 3rd Block, H.B.R Layout, Bangalore-560 043. If any person/s, having claims, objections etc., in respect of the said Schedule Property or any part thereof, the same may be brought to the notice of the undersigned in writing together with all details and documents in support of such claim within **14(fourteen) days** from the date of this Notice. Any objections, claims, etc., received after the expiry of the period mentioned above shall neither be entertained nor be binding on our client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of Residential site bearing Nos.22 & 23, House No.2332/2, in Katha No.3666, **present BBMP Katha No.816/3666/2332/2/22/23, Ward No.24-HBR Layout**, and site bearing Nos.34, House List No.2332/4, in Katha No.3666, **present BBMP Katha No.819/3666/2332/4/34, ward No.24-HBR Layout, situated at : Kacharakanahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, Western Portion of property measuring East to West (35 + 37)/2 feet, and North to South : (49.41 + 49.91)/2 feet, in all measuring 1788 sq.feet**, and bounded on:

East by : EthiRaje. G Property, West by: Private Property, North by: 40' Road, South by: Murali Prasad. G & Private Property.

Sd/-
BIG Law Firm
#336, 12th Cross, 2nd Block, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru-560032,
Email: advsmlaxmeshwar@gmail.com
CELL: 9845260197 / 8277654873

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public Notice hereby informed that **(1)** V.Chaluvaraju, S/o Late R.Varadaraju and Smt.Lakshmi **(2)** Chiranjeevi.G, S/o Late Smt.Bhagya @ Komala and Sri.Gopinath.D. **(3)** Sri.Raghavendra.G. S/o Late Smt.Bhagya @ Komala and Sri.Gopinath.D, **(4)** Sri. Gopinath.D. S/o late Dasappa and Husband of Smt.Bhagya @ Komala **(5)** Smt.Geetha D/o Smt.Late Yashodamma and W/o Keshava Murthy **(6)** Smt.Shamanthaka Mani.C.M. @ Smt.Mani W/o Late Parthasarathy.R. **(7)** Madhan Kumar.P, S/o Late Parthasarathy.R and Smt.Shamanthaka Mani.C.M. @ Smt. Mani and **(8)** Sri.Manoj Kumar.P, S/o Late Parthasarathy.R. and Smt.Shamanthaka Mani.C.M. @ Smt.Mani are the R/of No.336/18, New No.447, PID NO.52-1B-447, B.B.M.P. Ward NO.155-Hanumanthanagar are the owners of the schedule property have lost **(1)** Original registered Sale Deed dated: 30.05.1991 registered as Document No.911/19912 of Book No.1, Volume No. 1704, Page No. 134 to 142 Pertaining to the Schedule Property hereunder and despite of due diligence the same is not traceable.

A suit had been filed by the V.Chaluvaraju and others against Smt.Shamanthaka Mani.C.M. @ Smt.Mani, Sri.Madhan Kumar.P and Sri.Manoj Kumar.P for partition and for other reliefs in O.S.NO.615/2021, before the XI Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge, At Bengaluru (CCH-No.8); that was settled in Mediation vide Memorandum of Agreement dated: 30.11.2021, wherein it has been stated by the parties that they have lost aforesaid mentioned sale deed dated, 30.05.1991 either it was misplaced by their deceased parents or it was lost.

In this regard the parties (1) Smt.Geetha.R and (2) Sri.Madhan Kumar.P have filed police complainants and obtained "Lost Article Reports" dated: 08.04.2023 and dated: 17.05.2023 respectively.

Hence any persons coming across the same shall be hand over to the undersigned or inform the undersigned advocate. Any person misuse the said documents without returning the same shall have to face appropriate legal action and further if any persons companies, Banks, Financial institution, co-operative bank or society or any individual or partner/s etc., asserting any right, title or interest of claim in the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner or having any claims against the schedule property or the documents thereof or against the owners of the schedule property should write to the undersigned persons or advocate within 15 days of the issuance of this public notice with all documents proof on which they are asserting their rights with regards to the schedule property or any part thereof after which period our clients shall presume that there are no claims of whatsoever in nature with the schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the residential building Site No. BDA (Old) No.336/A and now BBMP No.18, 3rd Main, 7th Cross, Lakshmipuram, (Gavipura), Corporation Division No.49, Bengaluru-560 019, having PID No.52-113-447, at Harshavardhana Road, Hanumanthanagar, Bengaluru-560 019. measuring East To West 30 feet and North to South 47 feet and Bounded on **East by:** Site No.336, **West by:** Road, **North By:** Road, **South by:** Site No.337/A.

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFFS:
GOPAL, MOBILE No.98457 69785
ADVOCATE FOR DEFENDANTS:
SRI.NITHYANANDA MURTHY.P, SMT.BHANUPRABHA, MOBILE NO.91413 79006 MOBILE NO.91085 71923
PLAINTIFFS MOBILE NUMBERS:-
1. **CHALUVARAJ.V.** (M) 99455 99944
2. **GOPINATH.D.** (M) 99015 48397
3. **SMT.GEETHA.** (M) 96630 73347
DEFENDANTS MOBILE NUMBERS:
MADHAN KUMAR P.
MOBILE NO.85537 08392

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IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDL. CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE AT BANGALORE (CCH-5)
P & SC No. 211/2023

BETWEEN: 1. Smt. Ranjana Das, W/o Late Sri. Anant Das, Aged about 70 years, Residing at Villa No.267, Adarsh Palm Retreat, Bellandur Outer Ring Road, Next to Intel Junction Fly Over, Bellandur, Bangalore - 560 103.

2. Sri. Rishi Das, S/o Late Sri. Anant Das, Aged about 47 years, Residing at Villa No.267, Adarsh Palm Retreat, Bellandur Outer Ring Road, Next to Intel Junction Fly Over, Bellandur, Bangalore - 560 103.

3. Sri. Anshuman Das, S/o Late Sri. Anant Das, Aged about 45 years, Residing at Villa No.268, Adarsh Palm Retreat, Bellandur Outer Ring Road, Next to Intel Junction Fly Over, Bellandur, Bangalore - 560 103. **...PETITIONERS**

AND: NIL ...RESPONDENT

PUBLIC NOTICE

WHEREAS, the petitioners above named have filed a Petition under Section 372 of Indian Succession Act, 1925 for grant of Succession Certificate in respect of the shares as described as Schedule Property held by Late Sri. Anant Das who passed away on 30.12.2021 and for such other benefits that has accrued on the Schedule Property, for costs and such other reliefs as this Hon'ble Court deems fit under the facts and circumstances of the case, in the interest of justice and equity.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Item 1: The following shares are held in Demat and Trading Account with Integrated Enterprises (India) Private Limited with Client ID 22114331.

Sl. No.	NAME OF SECURITY	No. OF SHARES HELD	VALUE OF HOLDINGS AS ON 28.02.2023 (In Rs.)
1.	CHAMBAL FERTILISERS AND CHEMICALS LIMITED	600	1,62,690
2.	DCM SHRIRAM INDUSTRIES LIMITED	50	3,175
3.	GE T&D INDIA LIMITED	500	54,050
4.	GUJARAT INDUSTRIES POWER COMPANY LIMITED	100	7,785
5.	HDFC BANK LIMITED	70	1,11,503
6.	IFCI LIMITED	200	2,180
7.	IGARASHI MOTORS INDIA LIMITED	224	76,585
8.	JSW STEEL LIMITED	40	27,220
9.	MANGALORE REFINERY AND PETROCHEMICALS LIMITED	100	4,985
10.	RELIANCE CAPITAL LIMITED	10	83
11.	RELIANCE COMMUNICATIONS LIMITED	200	360
12.	RELIANCE HOME FINANCE LIMITED	10	28
13.	RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED	800	19,20,326
14.	RELIANCE INDUSTRIES LIMITED EQ PP	53	41,246
15.	RELIANCE INFRASTRUCTURE LIMITED	15	1,916
16.	RELIANCE POWER LIMITED	50	495
17.	SAGAR CEMENTS LIMITED	500	1,03,575
18.	STATE BANK OF INDIA	500	2,63,850
19.	VIDEOCON INDUSTRIES LIMITED	3	22
		TOTAL	Rs. 27,82,075

Item 2: A total of 26,30,888 shares held in the company CareerNet Technologies Pvt. Ltd. The total market value of the shares as on 28.02.2023 is Rs. 28,28,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Eight Crore Twenty Eight Lakhs Only).

Interested parties are hereby warned to appear in this Court in person or by a pleader duly instructed **on the 1st day of August 2023 at 11:00 a.m.** in forenoon to show cause against the petitioners, failing wherein the matter will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on 12th day of June 2023.

RAJESH B.L., Advocate
No. 24, IV Model House Street, Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560 004.

By order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar,
City Civil Court, Bangalore.

POSSESSION NOTICE

Whereas, the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** (Formerly known as Janalakshmi Financial Services Limited)., under the Securitization And Reconstruction of Financial Assets And Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 issued **demand notices** to the borrower(s)/ Co-borrower(s) calling upon the borrowers to repay the amount mentioned against the respective names together with interest thereon at the applicable rates as mentioned in the said notices within **60 days** from the date of receipt of the said notices, along with future interest as applicable, incidental expenses, costs, charges etc incurred till the date of payment and/ or realisation.

Sr. No.	Loan No.	Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	13(2) Notice Date/ Outstanding Due (in Rs.) as on	Date/ Time & Type of Possession
1	46659630000393	1) Mr. Muneedra S, 2) Mrs. Manjamma	12-04-2023 Rs.5,13,282.00 as on 10.04.2023	21-06-2023 05:40 P.M. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Katha assessment No. Sy.No.174, situated at Ward No.1, Ashoknagara, Vijayapura Town, Devanahalli Town, Measuring East-West 102 ft, North-South 23 ft, In West 21 ¼ ft there is house and vacant land which is **Bounded as follow: East by:** Property of Chowdappa, **West by:** Governement Oni, **North by:** Property of Munikrishnappa (2 Gunta), **South by:** Property of Venkatappa(6 ½ Gunta).			
2	47468950002328	1) Mr. Abhilash V Augustine, Prop. of D G Enterprises 2) Mrs. Jincey Abhilash	10-02-2023 Rs.4,07,441.16 as on 07.02.2023	22-06-2023 06:15 P.M. Symbolic Possession
	Description of the Property: All that piece and parcel of immovable Residential property bearing Site No.16, Khatha No.91/1, formed in Assessment No.91/1, Situated at Narasipura Village, Dasanapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk and **Bounded by the East by:** Private property and Site No.13, **West by:** 30 Feet Road, **North by:** Site No.17, **South by:** Site No.15. Measuring East to West: 40 Feet and North to South: 30 Feet totally measuring 1200 sq.ft.			

Whereas, the Borrower's/ Co-borrowers'/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above have failed to repay the amounts due, notice is hereby given to the Borrower's mentioned herein above in particular and to the Public in general that the authorized officer of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** has **taken symbolic possession** of the properties/ secured assets described herein above in exercise of powers conferred on him under section 13 (4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said rules on the dates mentioned above. The Borrower's/ Co-borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors, mentioned herein above in particular and the Public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the aforesaid properties/ Secured Assets and any dealings with the said properties/ Secured Assets will be subject to the charge of **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited.**

Place: Bangalore
Date: 26.06.2023
Sd/- Authorised Officer
For. Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)
Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

JANA SMALL FINANCE BANK
(A scheduled commercial bank)

Registered Office: The Fairway, Ground & First Floor, Survey No.10/1, 11/2 & 12/2B, Off Domlur, Koramangla Inner Ring Road, Next to EGL Business Park, Challaghatta, Bangalore-560071.

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SECTION 13(2) OF SARFAESI ACT, 2002.

Whereas you the below mentioned Borrower's, Co-Borrower's, Guarantor's and Mortgagors have availed loans from **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited,** by mortgaging your immovable properties. Consequent to default committed by you all, your loan account has been classified as **Non-performing Asset,** whereas **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** being a secured creditor under the Act, and in exercise of the powers conferred under section 13(2) of the said Act read with rule 2 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued **Demand notice** calling upon the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors as mentioned in column No.2 to repay the amount mentioned in the notices with future interest thereon within **60 days** from the date of notice, but the notices could not be served on some of them for various reasons.

Sr. No.	Name of Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor/ Mortgagor	Loan Account No. & Loan Amount	Details of the Security to be enforced	Date of NPA & Demand Notice date	Amount Due in Rs. / as on
1	1) Mrs. Ramavathi V, Also at M/s. R R Enterprises, 2) Mr. Ravishankar C	Loan Account No. 45389430000730 34019680000017 34019430000406 Loan Amount: Rs.33,54,735/- Rs.4,42,035/- Rs.4,67,065/-	**Schedule-II (Description of the Property) Schedule-'A':** All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing residential apartment flat number No.N-010, in the ground floor of the building known as "PIONEER PARADISE" formed in Sy.No.53/3 and measuring 0.02 Guntas and Sy.No.24/2 (Twenty four/ two), i.e., East to West: (215+204)/2 and North to South (301+240)/2 presently bearing Bommanahalli Nagarasasbhe Khatha No.234, converted for residential purpose vide Conversion Order No.BDS/ALN/SR (S) 784/2004-05, dated 30/03/2005, issued by the special deputy commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore, Puttenahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and **Bounded on the: East by:** Inam Land of Anjaneya Swamy Temple, **West by:** Road, **North by:** Private Property & **South by:** Domlur Ramaiah Reddy's Land. **Schedule-'B':** All that residential property bearing Flat No.N-010 in the ground floor in the North Block of the building known as "PIONEER PARADISE" constructed in Schedule IIA property and the apartment measuring 1080 sq. ft of super built up area having one Hall, Two Bedrooms, Kitchen, General Bathroom and Attached Bathroom, having Ceramic Tiles Flooring, Teak Wood door frame with OST Shutter and Sal and Honne Wood Windows, with common overhead Tank and common sump water facilities, with one Top Covered Car Parking Space No. N-010 in basement together with proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, lifts, staircase and other areas of common use. **Schedule-'C':** All that 360 Square Feet of Undivided share, right, title, interest and ownership in Schedule "A" property.	Date of NPA: 05-10-2022 & 12-10-2022 Demand Notice Date: 22-06-2023	**Rs.36,04,773.34** (Rupees Thirty Six Lakh Four Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy Three and Thirty Four Paisa) & **Rs.3,73,852/-** (Rupees Three Lakh Seventy Three Thousand Eight Hundred and Fifty Two Only) & **Rs.4,56,665/-** (Rupees Four Lakh Fifty Six Thousand Six Hundred and Sixty Five Only) **Total Amount: Rs.44,35,290.34** (Rupees Forty Four Lakh Thirty Five Thousand Two Hundred and Ninety and Thirty Four Paise Only) **due as on 18-06-2023**

Notice is therefore given to the Borrower/ Co-Borrower/ Guarantor & Mortgagor as mentioned in Column No.2, calling upon them to make payment of the aggregate amount as shown in column No.6, against all the respective Borrower/Co-Borrower within **60 days** of Publication of this notice as the said amount is found payable in relation to the respective loan account as on the date shown in Column No. 6. It is made clear that if the aggregate amount together with future interest and other amounts which may become payable till the date of payment, is not paid, **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** shall be constrained to take appropriate action for enforcement of security interest upon properties as described in Column No.4. Please note that this publication is made without prejudice to such rights and remedies as are available to **Jana Small Finance Bank Limited** against the Borrower's/ Co-Borrower's/ Guarantor's/ Mortgagors of the said financials under the law, you are further requested to note that as per section 13(13) of the said act, you are restrained/ prohibited from disposing of or dealing with the above security or transferring by way of sale, lease or otherwise of the secured asset without prior consent of Secured Creditor.

Date: 26.06.2023, Place: Bangalore Sd/- Authorised Officer, For Jana Small Finance Bank Limited

FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD. AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public at large, that FEDBANK FINANCIAL SERVICES LTD., has decided to conduct Auction of Gold ornaments belonging to accounts (mentioned below) which have become overdue or which have defaults or margin breach of customers. The Auction would be held at respective Branches specified below on **Thursday 06-07-2023 between 10.00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.** This would continue till the auction process is over.

Anekal 080-27830505 FEDGL00880003364, 0003378, 0003406 **Arakalgud** 08175-220780 FEDGL00360008847, 0008864, 0008873, 0008893, 0008900, 0008909, 0008934, 0008936, 0008945, 0008949, 0008961, 0008965, 0009655 **Arasikere** 08174-299941 FEDGL04140001209, 0001215, 0001222, 0001248, 0001278, 0002188, 0002739, 0001834, 0002740, 0002278, 0002745, 0002309 **B H Road** 8162277793 FEDGL01030007751, 0007765, 0007767, 0007793, 0007803, 0007806, 0011125, 0011152, 0008251, 0011181, 0010180 **BASAVESHWARA NAGAR** 080 41900282 FEDGL00110009453, 0009467, 0009488, 0009502, 0009506, 0009532, 0010832, 0010697 **BELGAUM** 0831 4201487 FEDGL01360003863, 0003875, 0003890, 0003895, 0003911, 0004323, 0005274, 0004410, 0005276, 0004595, 0005294, 0005280 **BELUR** 08177 222100 FEDGL01590007999, 0008011, 0008020, 0008021, 0008033, 0008038, 0008041, 0008042, 0008043, 0008044, 0008068, 0008070, 0008084, 0008086, 0009733, 0008975 **BTM LAYOUT** 080-41312231 FEDGL00030005152, 0005157, 0005412, 0005427 **BYADGI** 8375229022 FEDGL00510007684, 0007691, 0007692, 0007693, 0007696, 0007703, 0007713, 0007720, 0007727, 0007729, 0007730, 0007739, 0007757, 0007765, 0007775, 0007779, 0007790, 0007791, 0007792, 0007796, 0008480, 0008557, 0008563 **Caltex Circle** 8162277972 FEDGL01020007707, 0007718, 0007720, 0007725, 0007728, 0007730, 0007732, 0007748, 0007749, 0007771, 0007781, 0007791, 0007795, 0007823, 0008536 0010310, 0009854, 0011003, 0010345, 0010200, 0011127, 0011156, 0011246 **Car Street Bellary** 8392276005 FEDGL00920002734, 0002754, 0003633, 0003507, 0003638, 0003458, 0003650, 0003011, 0003673, 0003670, 0003647, 0003616, 0003698, 0003651, 0003615, 0003668 **CHANNAPATNA** 080 27256046 FEDGL01760016325, 0016328, 0016337, 0016344, 0016352, 0016388, 0016408, 0016436, 0016437, 0017117, 0017137, 0017139, 0017148, 0017156, 0017883, 0017947, 0018539 **CHENRAYAPATNA** 08176 252477 FEDGL01580018091, 0018093, 0018112, 0018114, 0018123, 0018162, 0018168, 0018183, 0018184, 0018219, 0018229, 0018246, 0018253, 0018266, 0020106, 0020162 **CHIKKAMAGALUR** 08262 228286 FEDGL00210006153, 0006158, 0006180, 0006509, 0006510, 0007174, 0007045, 0007139 **DAVANGERE** 08192-252111 FEDGL02290007926, 0007977, 0007981, 0008383 **Dharwad** 0836 -2970229 FEDGL02330004796, 0004797, 0004803, 0004807, 0004816, 0004985 **Gadag** 08372-200075 FEDGL04200000998, 00001008, 00001009, 00001024, 00001052, 00001618, 00002883, 00002378, 00003310, 00002935, 00001907, 00003567 **Gangavathi** 8533234018 FEDGL00940003801, 0003802, 0003807, 0003808 **Gubbi** 8131222850 FEDGL00460008836, 0008852, 0008870, 0008926, 0008927, 0008939, 0008957, 0008970, 0009002, 0009017, 0009820, 0009915, 0011805, 0011756 **Gundalpete** 08229-295128 FEDGL03830001568, 0001574, 0001579 **H D Kote** 08228-297033 FEDGL00580006905, 0006931 **Hagaribommanhalli** 08397-239003 FEDGL01000006534, 0006557, 0006563, 0006564, 0006630, 0006634, 0006637, 0006647, 0006649, 0007306, 0007362, 0007962, 0008034, 0008035, 0008767, 0008364, 0009530, 0008768, 0008354, 0008517, 0009364, 0009389, 0009438, 0009451, 0009476 **HANSUR** 08222 250114 FEDGL01620014708, 0014746, 0014753, 0014774, 0014808, 0015377, 0015421 **HARIHAR** 08192-242865 FEDGL00220011843, 0011850, 0011852, 0011870, 0011898, 0011900, 0011906, 0011909, 0012499, 0012505, 0012524 **HASSAN MARKET** 08172 235324 FEDGL01570009692, 0009701, 0009745, 0011953, 0011904 **HAVERI** 8375232810 FEDGL01810008751, 0008780, 0008783, 0008805, 0009168, 0009173, 0010026, 0009789 **HENNUR** 080-41979377 FEDGL00150003784, 0003785, 0003796, 0003991, 0004475 **Holenarsipura** 08175-273733 FEDGL00590016188, 0016201, 0016215, 0016221, 0016232, 0016240, 0016247, 0016249, 0016284, 0016308, 0016318, 0016343, 0017291, 0017376 **HOSA ROAD** 080-257444811 FEDGL00020010153, 0010190, 0010676, 0010695, 0010145, 0012330, 0011871, 0011678, 0012653, 0011876, 0011628, 0011805, 0012452, 0012465, 0011877, 0011674, 0011806, 0012451, 0012466 **Hosadurga** 8199200023 FEDGL04120001469 **Hospet** 08394-226899 FEDGL00990005246, 0005255, 0005258, 0005290, 0005291, 0005312, 0005317, 0005321, 0005328, 0005330, 0005802, 0005803, 0005829, 0005830, 0005842, 0007043, 0006572, 0006995, 0006568, 0007537 **JEEVAN BHEEMA NAGAR** 080 41900283 FEDGL00190003000, 0003226, 0003226, 0003000, 0003223, 0003111, 0003119 **K R NAGAR** 08223 262045 FEDGL01610009461, 0009484, 0009506, 0009509, 0009516, 0009533, 0009535, 0009553, 0009555, 0009556, 0009559, 0009586, 0010599 **K R Pete** 08230-262886 FEDGL00630005744, 0005745, 0005752, 0005764, 0005782, 0005784, 0005785, 0007181, 0006658, 0007206, 0006485, 0007227, 0006691, 0007244, 0006279 **K R PURAM** 080 25610669 FEDGL00120011023, 0011026, 0011041, 0011059, 0011714, 0011770, 0012162, 0011997 **K R ROAD** 8192272223 FEDGL00370004390, 0004396, 0004413, 0004415, 0004430, 0004434, 0004437, 0004438, 0004727, 0005439, 0005289, 0005450, 0005211, 0005451, 0005160, 0005452, 0005161 **Kadur** 08267-200280 FEDGL04870000778, 0000787, 0000804, 0000805, 0000814, 0001312 **KAMMANAHALLI** 080 40926572 FEDGL00050003568, 0003746, 0003944 **Kampli** 08394-250822 FEDGL00950005465, 0005468, 0005470, 0005475, 0005490, 0005497, 0005502, 0005507, 0005518, 0005519, 0005540, 0005541, 0005544, 0006046 **Kappogal Road Bellary** 08392-255005 FEDGL00930002839, 0002841, 0002845, 0002846, 0002867, 0003131 **KOPIKAR ROAD** 8362362444 FEDGL01550007401, 0006760 **Koppal** 8539200090 FEDGL04030000806, 0001070, 0001800, 0001356 **Kudligi** 08391-299920 FEDGL04040001191, 0001201, 0001203, 0001211, 0001215, 0001224, 0001225, 0001228, 0001235, 0001238, 0001248, 0001253, 0001819, 0001833, 0001837, 0001838, 0002465, 0002519, 0003200, 0002841, 0003201, 0002842 **KUnigal** 08162-220155 FEDGL01210005486, 0005497, 0005498, 0005503, 0005516, 0005518, 0005520, 0005546, 0005547, 0005570, 0007632, 0007092, 0007641, 0006932, 0007642, 0006933, 0007653, 0007172, 0007656, 0007411, 0007657, 0007412, 0007659, 0006844, 0007726, 0007391, 0007735, 0007424 **Laxmeshwara** 8487200005 FEDGL04070000681, 0000682 **Madhugiri** 8137200547 FEDGL03930001921 **Malavalli** 08321-244588 FEDGL03650002738, 0002742, 0002744, 0002777, 0002780, 0002781, 0002787, 0003223, 0003257, 0003662, 0003682, 0004662, 0004332, 0004331 **Malebennur** 08192-299566 FEDGL00620008718, 0008723, 0008734, 0008750, 0008752, 0008767, 0008776, 0010499, 0009635, 0011178, 0010517, 0010193, 0010342 **MANDIMOHALLA** 8214264270 FEDGL01740007346, 0007347, 0007788, 0007816 **MANDYA** 08232 239585 FEDGL01630006757, 0006771, 0006783, 0006788, 0006807 **Mundargi** 08371-295011 FEDGL00640005583, 0005588, 0005608, 0005613, 0005620, 0005644, 0005648, 0005658, 0005661, 0006278, 0006316, 0007519, 0007146 **Nagarbhavi** 8023356022 FEDGL00310004230, 0004837, 0005237, 0004943, 0005215, 0005197, 0005202, 0005251, 0005004, 0005648 **NANJANGODE** 08221 223326 FEDGL01600010866, 0010870, 0010934, 0010949, 0010951, 0011450, 0011486, 0011506 **Pavagada** 08136-295608 FEDGL03770003752, 0003757, 0003761, 0003771, 0003808, 0003812, 0003813, 0003841, 0003863, 0003875, 0004716, 0005574, 0006410, 0004601, 0006425, 0006162, 0006457, 0006262 **Periapatna** 08223-297589 FEDGL00440005779, 0005789, 0005823, 0006291, 0006309, 0006324 **RAJAJI NAGAR** 080 41902910 FEDGL00040003429, 0004052, 0003888 **Ramamurthy Nagar** 8041225616 FEDGL00350001650 **RAMANAGARA** 080 27275627 FEDGL01800018157, 0018158, 0018161, 0018167, 0018180, 0018199, 0018218, 0018222, 0018230, 0018231, 0018279, 0018291, 0018300, 0019323, 0019410, 0021382, 0020995, 0021384, 0020259, 0021389, 0020250, 0021392, 0021265, 0021426, 0019702, 0021486, 0019682, 0021391, 0020763, 0022323, 0021406, 0020137, 0021135, 0021407, 0020429, 0021119 **RAMASWAMY CIRCLE** 8214253754 FEDGL01730006130, 0006872, 0006720, 0006816, 0007069 **RANEBENNUR** 08373 - 297397 FEDGL02320008334, 0008353, 0008359, 0008360, 0008361, 0008381, 0008407, 0008420, 0008424, 0010047, 0010091, 0010022 **SHIMOGA** 081 23115765 FEDGL01830008870, 0008872, 0008873, 0008874, 0008882, 0008897, 0008904, 0008909, 0008912, 0008913, 0009732 **Sindhanur** 08535-200110 FEDGL04610000856, 0000866, 0000869 **Sira** 08135-295620 FEDGL03760003401, 0003428, 0003437, 0003452, 0003462, 0003476, 0003483, 0005168, 0006157, 0005556, 0006181, 0004895, 0006182, 0004897 **SIRSI** 08384-223365 FEDGL01930006090, 0006091, 0006092, 0006101, 0006108, 0006112, 0006113, 0006121, 0006123, 0006135, 0006141 **Srinivasa Nagar** 080-26693369 FEDGL00890003655, 0003465, 0003657, 0000071 **Tarikere** 08261-200233 FEDGL04150000991, 0001000, 0001455, 0002322, 0001911, 0002378, 0002095, 0002318, 0002266, 0002282, 0002497, 0002508 **Tiptur** 8134252402 FEDGL00470007007, 0007014, 0007015, 0007021, 0007022, 0007036, 0007046, 0007059, 0007061, 0007454 **Turuvekere** 8139295735 FEDGL03860002336, 0002338, 0002340, 0002347 **Yeshwantpur** 8041225684 FEDGL00340003220, 0003225, 0003228, 0003235, 0003889, 0004517, 0004516, 0004468, 0004224, 0005018, 0004526, 0004136, 0004916, 0004447, 0003969, 0004866, 0004959, 0004505, 0004407, 0004869, 0004982, 0004460, 0004150, 0004809, 0004943, 0005044, 0004509, 0004236, 0004346, 0004853, 0004956, 0004459, 0004243, 0004335, 0004503, 0004872, 0004944, 000504, 0005046

Change in Venue or Date, if any will be displayed on our Website www.fedfina.com. All bidders participating will be intimated subsequently with respect to acceptance or rejection of bids submitted by them. Customer who want to release their ornaments shall visit at the base branch wherein the ornaments were pledged by the customer or contact at the number mentioned above on/or before 24-06-2023 subject to the terms and condition applicable.

Auction will be conducted at respective branches, in case the auction does not get completed on the given date due to any reasons, the auction in respect thereto shall be conducted on subsequent working days at district level branch after displaying the details on our Website. No further communication shall be issued in this regard.

Dated : 26-06-2023
Place : Karnataka
For, sd/- Authorised Signatory
Fedbank Financial Services Ltd.,

₹30,600 cr have been infused by foreign portfolio investors in Indian equities in June so far as they bet on India's stable macroeconomic profile.

Beware! Investors should be cautious against 'Buy' SMSes

Investors should seek professional guidance before investing in stocks instead of falling prey to random messages giving 'buy' calls

SACHIN KUMAR @ Mumbai

It was a normal day when Sushil Kumar, who works for a private firm in Noida, received an SMS about investing in shares of a company. The message was about a sharp rise in a company's shares and the sender claimed the price would rise further. To support this claim, the sender cited some websites that assigned 'buy recommendation' on the shares of the company.

Lured by the claims, Sushil decided to invest in the stocks in the hope of making some easy money. Several other investors received similar messages and they too fell for the claims and decided to buy these shares. After rising further for some more days, the prices of these shares crashed and retail investors lost their hard-earned money. The investigation by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) into this incident, which occurred in 2019 and 2020, revealed that it was a well-orchestrated plan in which promoters of the company colluded with some influencers and pocketed ₹147 crore by fooling retail investors.

How was the trap set for investors?

A recent investigation conducted by Sebi has revealed promoters of five companies colluded with price influencers to manipulate share prices and fool investors. The market regulator has barred 135 entities from the securities market over stock manipulation of five companies. These small cap companies are Mauria Udyog Ltd, 7NR Retail Ltd, Darjeeling Ropeway Company Ltd, GBL Industries Ltd, and Vishal Fabrics Ltd. The plan to trap investors was well-planned by promoters and influencers. Before approaching investors, the perpetrator artificially jacked up the prices of companies. After shares had risen, a person would send bulk messages to hundreds of investors. The messages contained 'buy recommendations' in these scrips through SMS and websites to artificially cause rapid price and volume increase in these scrips.

As a result of these messages, several investors bought these shares leading to a further rise in the shares. Once these shares had risen significantly, promoters and directors of the companies sold their shares pocketing substantial profit. There were three main players in this unholy nexus. The first category was price and volume influencers, who were instrumental in artificially influencing price and volume in the scrips before the SMSes were sent. The second category was off loaders, who had made substantial profits by dumping the shares by taking advantage of abnormal rises in the prices of shares. There was a mastermind who hatched this plan and sent bulk messages to investors. Promoters, influencers and the mastermind were all connected to each other and worked in sync to dupe investors.

How to spot price manipulation

There are several ways through which retail investors detect share price manipulation. The first thing which lures investors is rise in the prices of company's shares. Investors should look if the rise in share prices is backed by any major announcement by the company or a consistent increase in revenue or profit.

"Investors can detect signs of stock manipulation by watching for unusual trading patterns, such as abnormal volumes or sudden price spikes. If you notice a significant upward or downward movement in a stock without an underlying reason for the spike or fall, there is a chance that the stock has been manipulated through illegal means," Shruti Jain, Chief Strategic Officer, Arihant Capital Markets told TNIE. "It's important to pay close attention to stocks whose prices witnessed an increase or decrease more than they usually do in the context of 50-day moving averages. Lack of transparency in disclosures and irregular financial reporting are also warning signs. Monitor regulatory actions for investigations, penalties, or bans related to stock manipulation," she added.

As there is no shortcut to success, similarly there is no shortcut to making quick money from the stock market. Instead of looking for tips, investors should do some research about the company. "Retail investors should focus on investing in fundamentally strong companies with solid financials and sustainable growth prospects. Relying on thorough research and analysis rather than market tips or hearsay is essential," said Shruti Jain. "Additionally, assessing the quality of management becomes crucial. Investors should evaluate the track record, strategic vision, and integrity of the company's management team, ensuring that they make decisions based on long-term value creation rather than short-term stock price fluctuations," she added.

Delivery volumes of the shares are also an important metric to watch out for while making investments.

"Investors should also look at the delivery volume as a percentage of total volumes. A lower delivery volume against high trading volumes could mean that there are a smaller number of serious investors trading in that stock and most trades are square up intraday. This is another red alert which investors should keep in mind," Narendra Solanki, Head Fundamental Research - Investment Services, Anand Rathi Shares and Stock Brokers said. "Inclusion of stocks in any index is also one of the criteria which can be used to filter bad stocks because exchanges already implement some shortlisting measures which weed out dubious scrips," he added.

How to detect stock price manipulation

- Abnormal rise in share prices
- Prices have risen without any major announcement
- Lower delivery volume against high trading volumes
- Illiquid Low-volume stocks are easier to manipulate
- Lack of transparency in disclosures by the company

Keep this in mind for safe investing

- Only rely on research and analysis
- Do not invest based on tips or hearsay
- Seek guidance from Sebi-registered advisors
- Be wary of rumours or social media posts that can impact stock prices

MONEY MATTERS

FINANCIAL KNOWLEDGE

RAJAS KELKAR
(The author is editor-in-chief at www.moneyminute.in)

WHY FINANCIAL ATTITUDE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

IN personal finance, a lot is happening around financial literacy. Every financial product tries to 'educate' you on the right thing to do when saving, investing, or buying insurance. Financial literacy has been an area of research for some time now. It is closely associated with your financial well-being. There are three essential aspects of financial literacy. Your knowledge, attitude and behaviour matter a lot in measuring financial literacy.

A new article published in the latest Reserve Bank of India Bulletin flags a concern. A field survey on financial literacy was conducted to check people's attitudes towards financial literacy. It says that you have shown an improvement in financial knowledge. However, when asked to agree or disagree with statements related to financial attitude, most of the people surveyed scored poorly. The questions in the attitude survey ask people three questions. The first one is about if they live for the day. That means living in the moment and letting tomorrow take care of itself. The second one is if they find it satisfying to spend money than to save for the long-term. The third one is if they agree that money is there to spend.

On a scale of 1 to 5, the score is low if you strongly agree or agree. India's overall financial attitude score was 1.97 out of a maximum of 5. The survey was conducted based on the standard questionnaire set by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that covers G20 countries in the survey. It is way below the OECD average of 3. It is higher for rich countries and lower for developing nations like India and Indonesia. That means as everyone gets financially aware and knowledgeable, they tend to save and invest.

If you dive a bit deeper, the score is highest among retirees. It is the worst among the poor daily wage workers. Age and experience steadily seem to be making people aware of money.

Within the age groups, those between 20-29 show a better attitude towards saving for tomorrow than those aged 30-39. That could be because the young working class has limited current responsibilities. They are probably exposed to financial knowledge better than the higher age group. Those in their 30s tend to spend more as they build families and homes. Women are better at this than men. They tend to care more about the future than men.

Despite that, an overall score in the financial attitude category pulls Indian households to prosperity. That perhaps explains the poor penetration of mutual funds and demat accounts that encourage long-term investing. Barely 2% of the population has demat accounts, and 2.5% invest through mutual funds. That is also why most 'investor education' and 'awareness campaigns fail to capture the public's imagination. These campaigns are merely making people aware of products and services. They are not engaging enough for people to change their financial attitude. The overall Indian tally had barely moved since 2017 when OECD surveyed G20 countries. That is surprising since a lot has happened in India regarding people's participation in financial markets.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

Today, over 800 million Indians own smartphones. Mobile internet is everywhere. The so-called India stack led by Aadhaar, UPI and smartphones creates a backbone for a personal finance revolution in India.

There is a need for a nudge from the governments and regulators to encourage them to save for the long term. Indeed, India is not a tax haven. Nobody should assume that India is for those wanting to avoid taxes. However, there is a need to reconsider the applicability of long-term capital gains on savings.

Things like pensions subscribed for through the national pension system and money invested in ETFs should be made long-term capital gains tax-free, at least for a decade. At the same time, there must be some rethink about the communication. Stock market investments are subject to market risk. That should be taught early in high school instead of propagating it while promoting long-term saving products linked to equity markets.

MONEY-WISE

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
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(Views expressed here are personal)

SEBI CONSULTATION PAPER–BOON OR BANE?

NOW that the dust has settled on the capital market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)'s consultation paper on the rationalisation of total expense ratio (TER), it is time to debate its implications going forward in the event it gets implemented in toto.

One of the sore points for the mutual fund houses is the proposal to bring brokerage and research costs within the TER limit. SEBI's viewpoint is that the mutual fund houses have been paying research fees to brokerage houses, which in their opinion amounts to double-charging investors who pay management fees to the fund house.

Now, mutual fund schemes often transact in securities through stock-brokers. These stock-brokers are paid fees by mutual funds for trade execution as well as related services including research. While SEBI points out in its consultation paper that over 40 mutual fund houses paid out around ₹3,500 crore in FY2021-2022, there is a counter-argument that a panel of stock-brokers is a globally accepted practice in the fund management business.

Then, there is also the issue of Impact Cost that needs to be factored in as one of the reasons to filter transactions through a stock-broker, besides the attendant benefits of sell-side research. It has been counter-suggested that the larger AMCs could consider taking limited purpose membership of stock exchanges to carry out their trades to minimise costs.

Finally, the issue of uniform TER across all schemes seems to have divided the industry. While it appears favourable for the small and mid-sized mutual funds, the larger ones appear less cheerful about it.

Having presented some of the key takeaways, it is now worth looking at the impact. The objective of SEBI to reduce costs for investors is commendable. The suggestion of a performance based fee for mutual fund houses too appears a revolutionary step and it is unlikely that there will be too many complaints against that one.

However, the repeated cutting of costs in what is indisputably an already highly regulated industry will shrink the margins of mutual fund houses. This could eventually result in a squeeze on salaries and in the process, if experienced fund managers choose to seek alternate job pastures, the performances of these mutual funds could suffer. If that happens, who the end loser could be is clear.

Somehow, this reminds me of the time I met the promoter of a no-frills budget airline at the time of its IPO who claimed he would constantly push costs down to the minimum. Having reviewed his already well tightened cost sheet, I expressed apprehension whether he meant optimising Air Turbine Fuel (ATF) costs by flying the plane with just half its tank full.

He saw the funny side of my interjection, but I wonder who will be left laughing if SEBI implements its consultation paper sans any leeway to the mutual fund industry which has improved its penetration and grown to a size of ₹40 lakh crore.

My hunch is, better sense will prevail and a mid-way path will be adopted. After all, there is the commonality of interest in the well being of investors who are the industry's customers and SEBIs responsibility.

Centre creates ₹10,000 crore Urban Infra Development Fund

MONIKA YADAV @ New Delhi

THE Centre has created the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) with the total allocation of ₹10,000 crore from the corpus of priority sector lending shortfall, a top official told TNIE. The fund will be managed by the National Housing Bank (NHB).

"The fund has been created with the infusion of ₹10,000 crore under the National Housing Bank. The National Housing Bank (NHB) and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHU) are framing guidelines for the identification of infrastructure projects in tier II and tier III cities," a top official said.

The fund was announced in the budget this year by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. "Like the RIDF (Rural Infrastructure Development Fund), an Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) will be established through use of priority sector lending shortfalls," the finance minister had said in her speech. UIDF is on the lines of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, which was created by the government in 1995-96 with an initial allocation of ₹2,000 crore. In 2022-23, the government had allocated ₹40,000 crore for RIDF.

"States will be encouraged to leverage resources from the grants of the 15th Finance Commission, as well as existing schemes, to adopt appropriate user charges while accessing the UIDF. The Fund would be operationalised broadly along the lines of the existing Rural Infrastructure Development Fund," the Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs, Kaushal Kishore, had said, in a written reply to the Lok Sabha in April.

Sitharaman while announcing the Union Budget 2023-24 said that the cities will be incentivised to improve their credit worthiness for municipal bonds. This will be done through property tax governance reforms and ring-fencing user charges on urban infrastructure.

On urban sanitation, she said all cities and towns will be enabled for 100% mechanical desludging of septic tanks and sewers to transition from manhole to machine-hole mode. Enhanced focus will be provided for scientific management of dry and wet waste.

Fund to operate along the lines of RIDF

States will be encouraged to leverage resources from the grants of the 15th Finance Commission, as well as existing schemes, to adopt appropriate user charges while accessing the UIDF.

FM says rapid investment in semiconductor benefitting India

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that the rapid investment in semiconductor and other technologies is benefitting the people of India.

Briefing media persons about PM Narendra Modi's visit to the US , she listed out various agreements signed between India and the US in fields ranging from Technology Partnership which included strengthening of semiconductor supply chains, advanced telecommunications, Space, Quantum and Advanced Computing & AI, among others.

"Micron will set up its semiconductor and test plant in Gujarat entailing a total investment of $2.75 billion. It is expected to create nearly 5,000 new direct jobs and around 15,000 indirect jobs over the next few years," she said.

Reserve Bank says high proportion of retail credit poses systemic risk

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

THE banking regulator has raised concerns about the growing share of retail loans in total bank credit as it feels the trend can be a source of systemic risk. In the latest bulletin, the Reserve Bank of India has noted that outstanding retail loans at the end of March 2023 more than doubled in five years to ₹40.85 lakh crore, even as their share in the aggregate credit had increased from 24.8% in March 2018 to 32.1% in March 2023 (the highest among the sectors). The report noted that in the long-term, such concentration portfolio strategies (of banks) can result in the emergence of systemic risks.

It further says that retail loan portfolio concentration risk can arise from loan stacking, wherein borrowers can avail of loans from many lenders, which over time can adversely affect the borrower's capacity to repay. Retail loans in FY23 grew at a healthy rate of 20.6% compared to 12.6% in the previous year. The growth rate was almost same in the pre-covid year of FY19. "The month-on-month cumulative growth momentum build-up for 2019-20 to 2022-23 covering pre-COVID period and post-COVID recovery period revealed that there was sustained growth of retail loans in 2022-23. Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) gained the pre-COVID momentum in 2022-23 gradually with the ebbing of the pandemic period," says the RBI report.

However, the report also noted that the ongoing 'retail-shift' is not permanent, but cyclical in nature and the (retail) credit growth may not continue to be high. It noted that banks' expectations of retail credit demand have moderated, and loan terms and conditions are expected to be tightened in the third quarter of FY24.

The report concludes that the retail credit segment and its major constituents (housing and vehicle) are sensitive to interest rates and the asset quality of the banks' loan portfolio. "Housing loans are more sensitive to both interest rates and asset quality than vehicle loans for the same period. So far, the relatively better asset quality in the sector may have fuelled retail credit growth," the report says.

Retail Credit Portfolios of Scheduled Commercial Banks

	Mar-18	Mar-19	Mar-20	Mar-21	Mar-22	Mar-23
Credit Outstanding (in Rs lakh crore)	19.08	23.03	27.26	30.09	33.86	40.85
Growth (%, y-o-y)	17.8	20.7	18.4	10.3	12.6	20.6
Share in total Credit (%)	24.8	26.8	28.6	30.3	30.7	32.1

Ostapenko, Kvitova claim top honours

Jelena Ostapenko won a battle of two former French Open champions beating Barbora Krejcikova 7-6 (8), 6-4 to win the Birmingham Open on Sunday. Krejcikova had sailed into the final without dropping a set. Meanwhile, **Petra Kvitova** of Czech Republic beat Donna Vekic 6-2, 7-6 (6) to pocket WTA German Open title.

SUNDAY SHOCKER FOR BRIJ BHUSHAN

Guahati High Court directs ad-hoc panel not to proceed with election process, fixes July 17 as next date of hearing

FIROZ MIRZA @Chennai

ON a day, which coincidentally was the last date to receive names for the electoral college to hold the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) election, the Gauhati High Court has directed the respondents not to proceed with the polls.

The order was issued on a writ petition by the Assam Wrestling Association against the ad-hoc body formed by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) to run the day-to-day affairs of the WFI. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is also one of the respondents in the petition. The WFI election was scheduled on July 11 while the court has fixed July 17 as the next date for the hearing effectively postponing the poll process at least till that date.

As per the initial announcement by the returning officer Justice MM Kumar, former chief justice of the J&K High Court, the election was scheduled to be held on July 6. However, it was extended by five days after the returning officer heard five state units claiming the right to send their nominations for the electoral college. Assam and Meghalaya too made claims but their pleas were not considered by the returning officer who felt it was not within their mandate to grant recognition to any party. Following the refusal, the Assam unit moved the court.

In their plea through advocate Devajit Saikia, who is also Advocate General of Assam and joint-secretary of the Indian cricket board (BCCI), the petitioners sought a direction to the respondents to treat the Assam Wrestling Association as an affiliated member of WFI as stipulated in its constitution with all consequential rights. The petitioners including Ratul Sharma, president of the Assam Olympic Association, also prayed for a direction restraining the respondents from proceeding further with any stage of election without issuing a certificate of affiliation to the state unit.

"Every unit from a state or union territory is entitled to be affiliated as a member of the WFI in terms of Article III (a) of the WFI constitution. The Assam association requested the same but has not yet been affiliated despite a recommendation made by the then executive committee to the general council after its meeting held in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh on November 15, 2014," advocate Saikia told this daily. Adding further, he said, "The state unit made several efforts for affiliation since then and the WFI also acknowledged the same through an e-mail dated May 23, 2019 but never got the desired result."

Since 2014, the election to appoint the executive committee of the WFI had been conducted twice — one each in 2014 and 2019. Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh retained his post as the president of the WFI on both occasions. Even though he was not eligible to contest this time, he was apparently backed by a majority of eligible state units.

"As the last date for filing nominations for the electoral college is June 25 (Sunday), we moved the court for an urgent hearing. Had the election process continued, once again the representatives from the Assam association would have been deprived to take part in the polls. Besides, all these years, the participation of wrestlers from the state depended on the whims and fancies of the WFI. These wrestlers would be deprived of participation in any national tournaments organised by the WFI further if the situation continues and that would be a grave injustice to both the state unit and wrestlers," said the advocate. The judge on considering the contentions raised by the petitioners directed the respondents not to proceed with the election as per the notification dated June 13 issued by the returning officer.

Surprising move

Usually, the election process is not stopped once it is underway. However, there is a very small window especially in case of glaring anomalies or violations the court can intervene and stop elections. At times the election is allowed to be held and the declaration of the result is withheld until matter is sorted or is at the discretion of the court.

What next for wrestlers?

United World Wrestling, the world governing body of the sport, has already issued a statement on the issues ailing wrestling in the country. A few days back, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) also urged the IOA to address the issue affecting the WFI by "working closely" with the sport's world body. The experts, however, believe that the Indian wrestlers can still compete under the Indian flag in the World Championships scheduled in September if the ad-hoc committee apprises the UWW of the situation and manages to convince it to extend the deadline to hold the election. As far as Asian Games is concerned, the entries are being sent through the IOA and the ongoing situation in the WFI will not affect the country's wrestlers' participation in the quadrennial event, said an expert.

Ad-hoc committee can move court

As the ad-hoc committee has been made respondent, it can move the court to vacate the stay. "The ball is in ad-hoc committee's court as it can decide the next course of action. We are ready with the electoral college but it all depends on the committee's next move. Our mandate is to hold the election. It can be held after the July 17 hearing as well," assistant returning officer Tapas Kumar Bhattacharya told this daily.

Shooters Ganemat, Kynan set for Asiad and World C'ships

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chennai

AFTER a series of trials and competitions, India's shotgun shooters are set for bigger challenges. The National Rifle Association of India, the governing body of the sport in the country, has proposed a list of shotgun shooters (trap and skeet) for the upcoming World Championships and the Asian Games.

The list includes shooters like Ganemat Sekhon, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa, Prithviraj Tondaiman and Kynan Chenai, to name a few. All of them practically picked themselves with their performances during the trials in recent months. Some of the familiar names who narrowly missed out are Manavjit Singh Sandhu (trap) and Mairaj Ahmad Khan (skeet).

Ganemat has been one of the noteworthy shooters in the skeet section. In 2021, she became the first woman from the country to capture an individual medal (bronze) in the said discipline. Earlier this year, she bettered that effort with a silver medal during the Almaty World Cup. Given Ganemat's and rest of the shooters' promise, the team is carrying high hopes. "The shooters have improved and have put up noteworthy performances in recent times. We are hopeful of putting up a strong show and winning a few quotas," a national coach, who has been guiding the shooters up close, said.

The World Championships is scheduled to be held in Baku (Azerbaijan) from August 14 to September 1 while the Asian Games is slated to be held from September 23 to October 8 in Hangzhou, China. The upcoming events are important given the fact there will be quotas on offer. India have won three quotas so far with one coming in the shotgun section. Trap shooter Bhowneesh Mendiratta, who won a quota for the country in the World Championships, was placed fourth after the latest trials. His omission is not a worry for India as the likes of Prithviraj and Kynan, who competed in 2016 Rio Olympics, will get a chance to earn a ticket to Paris.

Prithviraj, Kynan and Ganemat will also be participating in the mixed team events during the Worlds.

Ganemat Sekhon

SQUAD

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS/ ASIAN GAMES

Trap: Men: Prithviraj Toindaman, Kynan Chenai, Zoravar Singh Sandhu. **Women:** Manisha Keer, Preeti Rajak, Rajeshwari Kumari.

Skeet: Men: Aanatjeet Singh Naruka, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa, Gurjoat Singh Khangura. **Women:** Ganemat Sekhon, Parinaaz Dhaliwal, Darsha Rathore.

Trap Mixed team: Prithviraj Toindaman/Manisha Keer and Kynan Chenai/Preeti Rajak.

Skeet Mixed team: Anantjeet Singh Naruka/Ganemat Sekhon and Angad Vir Singh Bajwa/ Parinaaz Dhaliwal.

Note: *No Trap Mixed team event in Asian Games*

EXPRESS READ

Bagnaia wins Dutch MotoGP, extends lead

ASSEN: Francesco Bagnaia took another step towards defending his world MotoGP title, winning the Dutch MotoGP at Assen on Sunday to extend his lead in the championship. Pole-sitter Marco Bezzecchi took second with Brad Binder in third only for KTM's South African rider to pick up a penalty for exceeding track limits that knocked him off the podium. Demoted to fourth Aleix Espargaro was the beneficiary of Binder's misfortune.

Quintal earns 8 points for Honda Racing team

SUGOU (JAPAN): IDEMITSU Honda Racing India team rider Kavin Quintal finished inside top-10 in race 2 of round 3 of the 2023 FIM Asia Road Racing Championship, here on Sunday. Starting 18th from the grid, Quintal bagged a creditable eighth-place finish that earned eight points for the team. The Honda Racing India team has further solidified its position in the 2023 FIM ARRC, elevating the overall tally to 19 points.

Maharashtra Ironmen champions of PHL

JAIPUR: The Maharashtra Ironmen were crowned the champions of the first-ever season of the Premier Handball League (PHL) after they secured 38-24 victory against the Golden Eagles Uttar Pradesh in the final. The Ironmen were thoroughly dominant in the final in which they put on an attacking masterclass. The final of the inaugural season of the PHL was a highly-anticipated clash between two sides. Both teams started the game on the front foot.

Bangladesh win to keep hopes alive

AGENCIES @Bengaluru

BANGLADESH kept themselves in the hunt for a semifinal berth in the SAFF Championship with a gritty 3-1 win over Maldives here on Sunday.

Hamza Mohammad (17th minute) put Maldives in front but Bangladesh struck back through Rakib Hossain (42nd minute), Tariq Kazi (67th minute) and Shekh Morsalin (90th minute) to collect three important points in a Group B match.

Maldives also have three points, courtesy their 2-0 win over Bhutan in the first match. Now, both Maldives and Bangladesh are in a must-win situation against Lebanon, who also have 3 points, and Bhutan in their respective last league matches on June 28.

Despite needing a win to stay afloat, Bangladesh did not show much urgency in the initial stages of the match. Maldives made full use of that laxity to go ahead through Hamza.

The goal seemed to have made Bangladesh players realise the need to be more proactive, and it reflected in their moves.

They mounted quick counter attacks and closed ranks whenever Maldvies tried to add to their goal tally.

The experienced Rakib was the kingpin of Bangladesh fightback and fittingly he secured the equaliser when he headed the ball past Maldives custodian Hussain Shareef off a free kick. Bangladesh continued in the same vein the second half too and pressed forward consistently for more goals. Their efforts bore fruits in the 67th minute when Kazi exploited a goal mouth melee following a corner kick.

He gently tapped in the ball amid the confusion to take his side 2-1 up, and, surprisingly, Maldives players seemed to have sapped all energy.

On the other hand, Bangladesh players appeared even more sprightly and orchestrated several moves to take the match further beyond their opponents. Bangladesh snuffed out any faint hopes that Maldives harboured of levelling the scores when Shekh expertly evaded Shareef to thud the ball into the net to make it 3-1 in the 90th minute.

GCL: Anand & Co suffer first defeat

AGENCIES @Dubai

GANGES Grandmasters suffered their first defeat after three consecutive victories in the Global Chess League, going down to upGrad Mumba Masters here on Sunday.

Mumba Masters were given a head start by Dronavalli Harika who beat Bella Khotenashvili to earn four game points. Viswanathan Anand managed to strike back against French exponent Maxime Vachier-Lagrave. In a sharp exchange, Maxime blundered by putting his queen on the wrong square and ended up losing. But despite Anand's win, Ganges Grandmasters lost with Richard Rapport going down to Alexander Grischuk.

In another contest, SG Alpine Warriors defeated Chingari Gulf Titans 11-6.

ANISH, KARTHIK TOPPERS

Things are heating up the rifle/pistol section of shooting. Anish Bhanwala, Sri Karthik Sabari Raj and Nischal were among top performers in the ongoing national selection trials for Group A rifle and pistol shooters in New Delhi on Sunday. Competing in men's 25m rapid fire pistol, Anish, who has been one of the consistent performers in recent times, dominated the proceedings to come out on top. Tamil Nadu's Karthik won the men's 10m air rifle trials. Haryana's Nischal, after narrowly making finals cut in the women's rifle 3 positions, put up a dominant show in the finals to finish on top.

Ashes: Head laughs off England's 'nice chat'

AFP @London

AUSTRALIA batsman Travis Head is unconcerned by England's "nice chat" ahead of the second Test at Lord's.

Head's team are 1-0 up in the five-match contest after a thrilling two-wicket win in the series opener at Edgbaston although for some members of the England side, buoyed by their aggressive 'Bazball approach, it is as if the defeat has not registered.

England seamer Ollie Robinson, criticised by Australia greats Matthew Hayden and Ricky Ponting for his expletive-laden send-off to Usman Khawaja at Edgbaston, spoke this week of his surprise at the tourists' "defensive" approach and suggested they would need to change to win the series.

And home opener Zak Crawley predicted on Times Radio recently that England would win at Lord's by 150 runs. "We're only going for the lunch (at Lord's), apparently," Head jokingly told 9News Sydney. "Yeah, they (England) have got this mantra they're going at.

"Not just on the field but off the field they are throwing some nice chat out, but this team is truly just worried about what we need to do to win the second Test to go 2-0 up and put some pressure on them."

Australia trained at Lord's on Sunday, where the second Test starts on Wednesday.

Diksha pockets second LET title

AGENCIES @Czechia (Czech Republic)

DIKSHA Dagar cruised to her second Ladies European Tour as she grabbed a commanding four-shot win at the Tipsport Czech Ladies Open on Sunday. The 22-year-old southpaw won her first LET title back in 2019, her rookie year, and in 2021 she was part of the winning team at the Aramco Team Series in London.

This was Diksha's 79th start on the LET and she now has two individual wins and nine Top-10 finishes, four of which have come this season.

Starting the day with a five-shot lead, Diksha, who hails from Jhajjar in Haryana, duly delivered the win with no hiccups. Diksha's final round 69 included four birdies and just one bogey in a week. She dropped shots only once each on first and last days with a bogey-free 65 in between on the second day.

Diksha Dagar | PTI

Thailand's Trichat Cheenglab made a valiant charge on the final day with a 64, but her first two rounds of 73-70 meant she started the final day nine shots behind Diksha and that was too much overcome for the Thai.

The 22-year-old Indian was steady throughout Sunday just as she had been all week. Trichat finished with a total of 9-under and was sole second while Frenchwoman Celine Herbin (69-72-67) was third at 8-under.

After a series of Top-10 finishes, three of them in last four starts, Diksha finally forced the door open with a stunning performance that was highlighted by a second round of 7-under 65.

She compiled rounds of 69-65-69 with 13 birdies, an eagle and just two bogeys in 54 holes over three rounds.

Sri Lanka post 133-run victory over Ireland

AFP @Bulawayo

SRI Lanka powered into the Super Six stage of the Cricket World Cup qualifying tournament with a crushing 133-run win over Ireland on Sunday that eliminated their opponents. The result also guaranteed Scotland and Oman will join Sri Lanka in progressing from Group B.

Opener Dimuth Karunaratne made a run-a-ball 103 and Sadeera Samarawickrama hit 82 as Sri Lanka compiled an imposing total of 325 all out off 49.5 overs after being put in to bat in Bulawayo.

Mark Adair took 4-46 and Barry McCarthy claimed 3-56. Karunaratne and Samarawickrama put on 168 for the third wicket after Kusal Mendis was trapped lbw first ball by McCarthy.

Charith Asalanka (38) and Dhananjaya de Silva (42 not out) also chipped in as Ireland sought to limit the damage in the closing overs. Ireland needed a victory to keep their qualification hopes alive, but they lost experienced opener Paul Stirling for six and the wheels soon came off.

Brief scores: Sri Lanka 325 in 49.5 ovs (Karunaratne 103, Samarawickrama 82; Adair 4/46) **bt** Ireland 192 in 31 ovs (Campher 39, Tector 33; Hasaranga 5/79). Scotland 320 in 50 ovs (McMullen 136, Berrington 60; Bilal 5/55) **bt** Oman 244/9 in 50 ovs (Khushi 69, Shoaib 36; Greaves 5/53).

TENNIS

Alcaraz pockets Queen's crown, returns to World No 1 throne

AFP @London

CARLOS Alcaraz will return to World No 1 after beating Alex de Minaur 6-4, 6-4 on Sunday to win his first title on grass at Queen's Club.

The Spaniard's fifth title of the season moves him back ahead of 23-time Grand Slam champion Novak Djokovic at the top of the rankings.

Alcaraz was playing on the grass for just the third tournament of his career.

The 20-year-old has failed to get past the fourth round in two previous attempts at Wimbledon, but his impressive showing suggests he will be the biggest threat to Djokovic securing an eighth title at the All England Club next month.

After battling past French lucky loser Arthur Rinderknech in the first round, Alcaraz did not drop a set in his final four matches at Queen's. De Minaur had dumped out Andy Murray and World No 6 Holger Rune on his route to the final.

But the Australian was left to rue Alcaraz's ability to win the big points in a tight contest.

De Minaur had two break points for the chance to serve for the first set when he led 4-3. Alcaraz responded, though, to hold serve and immediately break the world number 18 in the next game before serving out for the set. The US Open champion needed lengthy treatment between the two sets as he had strapping applied to his right quad. However, Alcaraz's movement did not seem affected as he again pounced with his only break point to move ahead 3-2 in the second set.

Carlos Alcaraz rejoices after beating Alex de Minaur on Sunday | AFP

Two rare errors gave De Minaur some hope in the final game as Alcaraz found himself 0-30 down. But his booming serve dug him out of trouble as four straight points secured the new World No 1 the title.

Bublik triumphs

HALLE: Kazakhstan's Alexander Bublik defeated third seed Andrey Rublev to win the biggest title of his career at the Halle Open. Bublik won 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in the final of the traditional Wimbledon warm-up tournament in Germany.

The Kazakh took the first set after breaking Rublev in his opening service game.

Rublev responded by winning the second set in similar fashion but Bublik raced 3-0 ahead in the decider before clinching his second ATP title. "This means the world to me, I've been struggling for a year and a half now. It was hard work," he said of his 95-minute triumph. The 48th-ranked Bublik faced a difficult path to the final, making his way past Borna Coric, Jan-Lennard Struff and Jannik Sinner, before downing home favourite Alexander Zverev in the last four.

UPCOMING EXAMINATIONS

CRPF CONSTABLE EXAM
Date: July 1 to 13, 2023

UPSC EPFO EXAM
Date: July 2, 2023

NATA EXAM
Date: July 9, 2023

The ODL BOOM

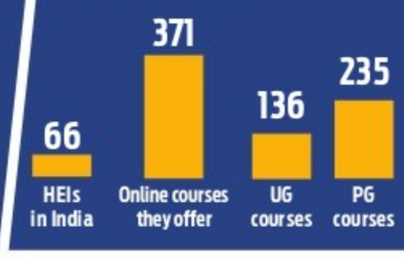
Open Distance Learning and online courses have been seeing an upswing lately. Here are some statistics that indicate the same

(TIME PERIOD: 2021 TO 2022)

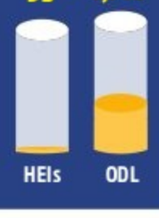
ENROLMENT BOOM

- 11% Of total enrolment in HEIs is for distance edu
- 170% Rise in number of students opting for online education
- 41.7% Boost for ODL courses
- 38% Growth of HEIs offering online programmes

EXTENSIVE ONLINE PROGRAMMES



THRIVING ODL MODE



SHIFTING TRENDS

HEIs offering online courses up by 38%

In 2021-22: 58 HEIs offered online programmes

In 2020-21: 42 HEIs offered online programmes

PROGRAMME EXPANSION

1,066 to 1,078
Increase in number of programmes

20 lakh +
Admissions to online and distance programmes

Though online and distance learning courses are growing popular, are they better than regular courses?

GIFTS TO THE MASSES

OPENING THE ONLINE AND OPEN LEARNING PACKAGES

ABHIPSA MOHANTY

IN September 2022, the University Grants Commission (UGC) announced that the degrees obtained via online and distance modes of education would be on par with regular degrees. At a time when the nation was reeling from Covid-19, traditional education underwent a profound transformation as it swiftly transitioned to online platforms. Hence, another new normal that people wake up to in 2023 is the growing demand for online and Open Distance Learning (ODL) courses.

Tracing the evolution

Prof Andrew Thangaraj from IIT Madras and National MOOCs (Massive Open Online Course) Coordinator for NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning) in the Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds (SWAYAM) project, states that one can ascertain the true growth of online programmes only after a few years when data on the effectiveness of student enrollment and acceptance of these courses are clearer. In addition, Mayank Jain, Chair of the Indian EdTech Consortium (IEC, a body under Internet and Mobile Association of India), mentions though demand and acceptance have increased collectively, demands in certain areas show more growth. These include non-university programmes related to technology, boot camps and skill-oriented courses.

go online

Blurring boundaries?

Though it cannot be said that these courses have an edge over the regular mode of learning, "people have started realising that medium doesn't matter any more," explains Mayank.

Prof Thangaraj adds that students from such programmes were being placed just like regular students. "It depends on the area of discipline, but the industry is accepting these courses faster," he tells.

It may be noted that the UGC instructed universities to conduct placement drives for ODL and online courses too. Professor Uma Shankar, Principal of Delhi University's (DU) School of Open Learning (SOL) says, "We have seen that students from these courses are given preference at job fairs." But the student turnout at such drives is often not very good, says Dr Yusuf Khan, Director of Training and Placement Cell at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Hyderabad. "It is because they are already engaged elsewhere," he reasons, adding, "This year, 50 students registered and five appeared for the interviews."

Challenges remain

With the pandemic ebbing away, Dr Khan opines that the craze for online and distance courses has subsided slightly. And even if such courses are starting to be accepted, Students and experts believe there are bottlenecks that need to be overcome.

Students who opted for distance courses state that the number of classes ought to be increased, in the online mode. "We used to have online classes during Covid-19, but they stopped afterwards," Priya Raj, who is enrolled at the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), Jamshedpur, says. Also, one has to address their own doubts, she adds.

Subhranshu Mishra, a UPSC aspirant who completed his master's degree from IGNOU, Bhubaneswar agrees that it indeed becomes a challenge for them. "Weekend classes are conducted for doubt-clearing, but it becomes difficult for one teacher to cater to all students. Moreover, everyone cannot travel to the university every two to three months," he says. "Online classes can solve these problems," he states, speaking in favour of student-professor engagements. He advocates for a grievance redressal cell, where students can send in their queries for swift action.

Additionally, Priya was not satisfied with the materials received. "It doesn't help with the assignments and exams. I can compare it to an NCERT book, which is not enough for exams, and one has to study from other resources as well," she says.

Nonetheless, the students and experts concur that self-learning would be difficult for those who do not have prior knowledge of the subject they are pursuing. Also, universities often do not teach the required skills to students, states Adarsh S, Research Scientist and Convener, Kerala Blockchain Academy (KBA), which comes under Digital University Kerala. "Therefore, we offer practical classes on campus," he says.

Speaking from the universities' point of view, Prof Thangaraj says that courses offered online are different from mainstream university curricula.

The discipline is also a definite challenge, adds Mayank, who is also the MD of EdTech platform, upGrad. "From a consumer point of view, I can say that people enrolled in serious long-term programmes often quit when personal issues arise," he says.

SOME SOLUTIONS

Though the students and experts agree that the government has done a lot to boost ODL and online courses, they posit a few solutions to make the experience better. Students urge the government to invest in the technical front and human resources.

"There is no dearth of courses, but many don't know about them. They should become more open and accessible," says Amogha Arvana, an IGNOU Hyderabad student.

Subhranshu mentions that teachers taking weekend classes need to be more interactive but, "we can't expect them to give it their 100% if they are already working all week," he says.

Mayank and Prof Thangaraj say that proper regulations for the courses and exam procedures are essential

Needs & benefits

Let's hear it from students and experts about what purpose ODL and online courses serve

BOTH ODL and online courses are mostly preferred by working professionals who wish to boost their knowledge or skills for stepping up their careers. As the courses are self-paced and can be pursued as per convenience, they allow people to learn and earn at the same time. "I was working as a Navy Officer and wanted to finish my BCA and MCA," says Priya Raj, who is currently enrolled at IGNOU, Jamshedpur.

Adarsh S, Research Scientist and Convener, Kerala Blockchain Academy (KBA), which comes under Digital University Kerala, says that students enrolled with them include both freshers and experienced individuals, who seek to understand the booming fields of blockchain and crypto. KBA also provides opportunities to work remotely with top companies for a short period.

Moreover, financial constraints push many to prefer continuing their studies while earning a stable income. Preparation for exams is another reason students choose ODL and online modes. Subhranshu Mishra, a UPSC aspirant who completed his master's degree from IGNOU, Bhubaneswar, says, "I wanted to devote most of my time to prepare, without being worried about obtaining a post-graduate degree."

better access

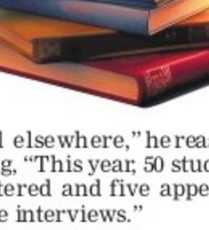
These flexible courses also permit students with health issues and injuries to continue their education hassle-free. Amogha Arvana, a student from IGNOU, Hyderabad, who met with a spinal cord injury a couple of years ago, explains that he had to invest a lot of time on his health, and had physiotherapy sessions to attend. "Though I was accepted into the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Hyderabad, the campus was located in the city's outskirts and there were no hostel facilities. I didn't think it was practical to compromise on my health and travel all the way to study a course when I was getting to study it through the distance mode," he says.

Professor Uma Shankar, Principal of Delhi University's (DU) School of Open Learning (SOL), emphasises that these courses are not bound by age limit or strict qualification requirements, making them more accessible. "Even professors, researchers and teachers opt for them," he elaborates.

An official from the BR Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU), Hyderabad, on the condition of anonymity, notes that in addition to online and offline classes, their lessons are offered via the state government portal, YouTube, Doordarshan and All India Radio as well to increase accessibility.

OPEN FOR ODL

UGC-recognised universities in all states & number of ODL programmes they offer



JAMMU AND KASHMIR
University of Kashmir (7)

CHANDIGARH
Panjab University, Chandigarh (15)

UTTAR PRADESH
Aligarh Muslim University (4)
Amity University (3)
Swami Vivekanand Subharti University (21)
UP Rajarshi Tandon Open University, Allahabad (41)

RAJASTHAN
Suresh Gyan Vihar University (6)
Vardhman Mahaveer Open University, Kota (37)
Jain Vishva Bharati Institute (8)

UTTARAKHAND
Graphic Era, Dehradun (3)
University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (3)
Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani (47)

WEST BENGAL
Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata (32)
Rabindra Bharati University (11)
University of Kalyani (8)
University of North Bengal (8)
University of Burdwan (6)

TELANGANA: Dr BR Ambedkar Open University, Hyderabad (27)
Kakatiya University, Warangal (30)
The English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad (1)
Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad (8)
The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (1)

TAMIL NADU
Anna University, Chennai (3)
BS Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai (2)
Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli (39)
Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education (6)
Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli (14)
Tamil Nadu Open University (81)
University of Madras, Chennai (41)
Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology (5)

MADHYA PRADESH
Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya (2)
Jiwaji University, Gwalior (7)
MP Bhoj University, Bhopal (19)
Mahatma Gandhi Chitrakoot Gramodaya Vishwavidyalaya, Chitrakoot (12)

MAHARASHTRA
Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha (9)
Padmashree Dr DY Patil Vidyapeeth, Navi Mumbai (2)
Smt Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University, Mumbai (16)
Shivaji University (12)
Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik (33)
University of Mumbai (23)
Kavikulaguru Kalidas Sanskrit University (2)
International Institute of Population Sciences (1)

PUNJAB: Chandigarh University (9)
Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University (5)
Punjabi University, Patiala (23)
Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar (21)

KARNATAKA: Jain (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru (8)
Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru (31)
Mysore University, Mysuru (12)
Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (4)

KERALA: University of Calicut (25)
Kerala University (22)
Sreenarayanaguru Open University, Kollam (7)

ODISHA
Odisha State Open University (OSOU), Sambalpur (26)

DELHI
Jamia Hamdard, Delhi (3)
University of Delhi (10)
Jamia Millia Islamia (13)

HIMACHAL PRADESH
Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla (15)
Shoolini University of Biotechnology and Management Sciences (4)

GUJARAT
Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahmedabad (14)

HARYANA
Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology, Hisar (9)
Maharishi Dayanand University (13)

PUDUCHERRY
Pondicherry University (20)

CHHATTISGARH
Pt Sundarlal Sharma Open University (17)

ANDHRA PRADESH
Acharya Nagarjuna University, Guntur (27)
Sri Padmavati Mahila Visvavidyalayam, Tirupati (1)
Vignan's Foundation for Science, Technology and Research (1)

ARUNACHAL PRADESH
Rajiv Gandhi University (8)

ASSAM
Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University Guwahati (22)
Tezpur University, Tezpur (3)
Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh (15)

BIHAR
Nalanda Open University, Patna (59)

BEFORE YOU PICK ODL/ONLINE COURSES...

Recently, the University Grants Commission barred the Narsee Monjee Institute of Management Studies from offering ODL courses. Students were warned by the commission against opting for ODL courses from these varsities. So, what should students keep in mind before choosing ODL/online courses?

1 RECOGNITION OF THE INSTITUTE
The colleges which are barred from offering ODL/online programmes are placed under "no admission category" by UGC. Students need to verify with the college website or via the UGC website, deb.ugc.ac.in, where the list is available

2 THE VARSITY DETAILS
The UGC mandates that a college submit particular documents for obtaining recognition for ODL/online courses. These details are available on the UGC website. Also, every college needs to upload these documents on its own website as well

3 RECOGNITION OF THE COURSE
UGC approves ODL/online courses. Students should check all details. Also, Engineering, Medical, Physiotherapy and courses of other disciplines are not approved for any college/varsity by the UGC

4 JURISDICTION LIMITS
Students must ensure that the institute operates strictly within its jurisdiction, to regulate activities including admission, counselling, contact programmes, programme delivery and exams. Violations of this norm should be carefully checked. For example, a university registered under a Central Act has to operate within its territorial jurisdiction as prescribed by the Act. Same goes for a university registered under a State Act and so on

strict rules

5 COURSE AND ELIGIBILITY
The UGC mandates that admissions for each ODL/online course be concluded by October 31. It also mandates that the entry-level qualification for a bachelor's degree course is 10+2; while for a master's course, it is a bachelor's degree

6 OWNERSHIP VERIFICATION
As per UGC regulations, the ODL/online programmes should not be offered by any university/college through franchising arrangements. The admission should be conducted from the headquarters of the institute transparently

7 PARITY MATTERS
UGC mandates that the degrees provided for the ODL and online courses should be equivalent to those provided for the regular courses

8 THE FLEXIBILITY
Students, ensure that your university allows you to shift from one mode of learning to another within the provisions of its Act. If a varsity loses its UGC recognition between the academic session, those pursuing ODL/online courses will have a valid certificate after the completion of the session, provided they took admission during the recognition period

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Last performance

Elvis Presley performed on stage for the last time on June 26, 1977, at the Market Square arena in Indianapolis. This marked his 55th show that year

A FINAL GOODBYE

The show had an audience of 18,000. Presley died just two months after his last performance in his Graceland mansion in Memphis, Tennessee, on August 16, 1977

AIRING THE CONCERT

CBS aired Elvis Presley's final concert special, Elvis In Concert. The show, which was broadcast six weeks after Elvis' death, featured an obviously ill Elvis

WHAT FANS BELIEVE

Although his June 26 performance was his last, many fans believed it to be 'Elvis in Concert'. However, it featured footage from previous performances that year

Check out what's happening in the city

PG 2

SUDDEN SPARKLE

Lab-grown diamonds have caught the fancy of Bengalureans after PM Narendra Modi presented Jill Biden, the First Lady of the USA, a man-made 7.5 carat diamond, recently

MONIKA MONALISA

DURING his recent visit to the US, Prime Minister Narendra Modi presented Jill Biden, the First Lady of the USA, a lab-grown 7.5-carat diamond, putting much spotlight on them. A growing community of Bengalureans is opting for this eco-friendly option owing to it being pocket-friendly, thereby giving them the option to make other financial investments. In the recent Budget, the govt removed 5% duty on lab-grown diamonds.

For example, Rumya Misquita, who works in the field of learning and development, went in for a lab-grown diamond for her engagement and now has a ring of her choice as well as money in the bank. "I always dreamt of one big rock. Let's say, the bigger the diamonds, the better. But for a bigger diamond, I was clear I didn't want to compromise on the brilliance. That's when my colleague suggested lab-grown diamonds. I got the rock I wanted, and the value too," says Misquita. Even Neha Bajpai, who works in financial services, wanted a 'solid rock' but without it denting her finances. "My parents recently turned 60. As a tradition, the women of the house were given generous amounts of money to buy jewellery of our choice for the Shashti Poorthi. I wanted diamonds, of course. Not just any, but the traditional three-layer neckpiece. My design was final which is when my cousin suggested man-made diamonds. At first, I was shocked, then I was pleasantly surprised. The big cloud on my head was, are they even diamonds? But they are real, and come with a certification," says Bajpai. Giving a perspective, a lab-grown solitaire ring costs close to ₹45,000 while a natural one costs over ₹1 lakh.

While the number of lab-grown diamond takers is increasing, there are many who still prefer traditionally-mined diamonds. Like Amber Sundka, a lifestyle content creator who manages her family business in hospitality. "The beauty of the diamond is it's a natural substance. The fact that it's synthetically made takes away that factor. Moreover, when you own a very expensive stone like a diamond, it should come with a legacy. For example, the diamonds that my mother owns have a story behind them. By making the stone easily available, that exclusivity is gone," says Sundka.

Sundka is not alone in her line of thinking. Lisa Mukhedkar, the founder of city-based lab-grown diamond brand Aukera also sources diamonds from the Surat-based firm – which sourced the lab-grown diamond which PM Modi carried to the White House– says the transition will be gradual but she can see the change already. "To begin with, lab-grown diamonds have been around for about 60 years. But as recently as 2018, the US Federal Trade Commission declared them as diamonds. And that spurred phenomenal growth in the US when it got the required legitimacy. The India story is just beginning. Lab-grown diamonds have similar certificates to mined diamonds. They have a buy-back and exchange value. They are made in specialised facilities in highly-controlled conditions. When designed and crafted right, they make the most exquisite jewellery," says Mukhedkar, who believes that in the future lab-grown diamonds and natural diamonds will co-exist.

Busting Myths

1. **Lab-grown diamonds are fake diamonds:** Lab-grown diamonds have the exact chemical, physical, and optical properties as mined diamonds.
2. **Clarity of lab-grown diamonds and mined diamonds are different:** Since both lab-grown and mined diamonds have the same chemical properties, it is difficult even for experts to tell the difference.
3. **Cubic Zircon and lab-based diamonds are the same:** Although both are synthetically created stones, the chemical composition of the cubic Zircon's crystal structure and lab-grown diamonds are completely different.
4. **Lab-based diamonds are not durable:** Lab-grown diamonds have the same famous Mohs hardness of 10. They are as durable as natural diamonds.

PM Narendra Modi presents a lab-grown diamond to US First Lady Jill Biden

Modi's gift to Jill Biden has not only increased the buzz around laboratory-grown diamonds, but also the papier-mâché box it was gifted in. Incidentally, a B'luru-based organisation which associates with artisans across the country worked with the Kashmir-based artisans who made the much-talked-about box

A Native Mishmash

The papier-mâché box that had the laboratory-grown diamond

TUNIR BISWAS

THE laboratory-grown green diamond that Prime Minister Narendra Modi gifted the First Lady of the USA Jill Biden had come safely confined inside a decorative box made out of papier-mâché, a composite material that has gained a lot of prominence in the sustainability movement.

Vinay Prashant, co-founder of Tamaala, a social impact organisation that works with indigenous artisans across the country to make innovative indigenous art, also worked with the Kashmir-based artisans who made the globe-trotting papier-mâché box. "The artisans who made that box also work with us. The design used in the box has been a common one that people in our industry have used for the last decade or so. It is a pre-existing design that has part of our native culture and a single person or an organisation can't take credit for it," he says.

Artist Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, part of the group of artisans who made the box that harboured the lab-diamond, says they run a unit employing hundreds of such papier-mâché artists. "The art of making such products with those designs has been part of the culture of Kashmir for hundreds of years. We were never in direct contact with PM Modi. The box was ordered by the jewellery person. There are some traders who come and buy such boxes in bulk. We make such products in abundance and deliver them to people all across the country," he shares.

Adding to the conversation is Maria Joseph, a city-based product designer who works with sustainable materials. She feels this is an example of India's rich history of indigenous crafts being adapted for both traditional and modern markets. "Papier-mâché is an extremely versatile material. Designers are pushing the boundaries of this material by experimenting with building materials and products such as bike helmets and furniture. It is increasingly being used to help create earthy, natural-looking interiors, architectural forms and products but they also offer a number of environmental benefits. Mulched newspapers can be made into a pulp and then modern manufacturing methods such as 3D printing or vacuum forming can be used to create the shape and design we require. It also ends up being a great alternative to thermocol or products that require to be light weight," she explains.

Roshan Ray, founder of Seed Paper India, a company creating sustainable paper products, believes despite its advantages, there are still some challenges left to conquer before papier-mâché becomes mainstream. "The first step would be to reduce the cost. We can't have something very expensive otherwise, it will never achieve mainstream status. Secondly, many people either aren't aware of papier-mâché or don't take it seriously. We need to promote the value of the material more. Finally, we will have to figure out a way to increase its production. Unlike plastic, which can be massed produced through machines, papier-mâché needs skilled workers," says Ray.

> *The art of making such products with those designs has been part of the culture of Kashmir for hundreds of years. We were never in direct contact with PM Modi. The box was ordered by the jeweller. There are some traders who come and buy such boxes in bulk. We make such products in abundance and deliver them to people all across the country*
>
> - Aijaz Ahmad Bhat, artist

Aslam Gafoor
(@aslamgafoor) is a hospitality professional with experience in business development, sales and marketing with well-known hotels, and food and beverage companies. A few of his passions are travel, food and wine, and he enjoys sharing these experiences as a columnist.

GRUB HUB

THE QUIZ WILL BE PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY

Send answers to **bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com** with the subject line **'Food quiz'**
The correct answers and names of the first three respondents with right answers will be featured in *CE* on Monday. The first prize winner this week will win a discount voucher worth ₹2,000 from Raahi Neo Bar and Kitchen**

THE RIGHT ANSWERS

1) Handvo 2) Mole 3) Old Fashioned

FIRST 3 TO GET IT RIGHT

1) Meenakshi Dinesh 2) Sachin Baraddi 3) Ratish Trehan

INSIDE
RAIN CHECK
P3

'SAIF ALI KHAN HELPED ME A LOT IN *ADIPURUSH*'

Actor Manohar Pandey, who was recently seen in *Adipurush*, speaks about his collaboration with industry stalwarts and the impact of his training at The National School of Drama

RYAN THOMAS

THEATRE has been the first step towards acting for a lot of artistes, nurturing countless talents and fostering the growth of their acting skills. One such artiste who honed his skills amidst the vibrant theatre scene is **Manohar Pandey**, who was recently seen as Bali Putra Angad in *Adipurush*. "Saif Ali Khan helped me a lot in *Adipurush*, he was always there to guide and push me," says the actor, who has also worked in *Super 30* and *Gangubai Kathiawadi*.

Pandey's acting journey commenced with theatre in 2007. After an arduous search, he stumbled upon Pierrot's Troupe, a renowned theatre collective based in Mandi House, Delhi. Reflecting on his initial encounter, Pandey fondly recalls, "When I started theatre, the people I met, the company I had, and the people I spent most of my time with were all very nice to me. This helped me become a better person and become a better actor." Working with Pierrot's Troupe also exposed Pandey to the nuances of language and accent, a challenge he adeptly overcame. "It helped me tune my language... acting is somewhere a profession where you have to be flexible yet neutral with one's language." The company's focus on Urdu plays further enhanced his linguistic repertoire, instilling in him a profound appreciation for the beauty of the language.

Meanwhile, as a graduate of The National School of Drama (NSD), Pandey says the institution served as the pinnacle of his formal training, offering him a platform to nurture his acting skills, free from the burdens of daily life. "The three years at NSD... it's like whatever you can and want to learn in your capacity. You don't have to think about food, shelter, or any other basic struggle as everything is arranged," he adds.

During his time with Pierrot's Troupe, Pandey engaged in numerous productions, each leaving an indelible mark on his artistic journey. The collaborative efforts and camaraderie within the group enabled him to thrive as an actor.

Recounting those memorable moments, he says, "Going back to Pierrot's Troupe, they used to do a lot of Urdu plays, which suddenly introduced me to Urdu. M Sayeed Alam, the director of the group, used to chide us to improve our delivery. This honestly fine-tuned my language." Pandey's pursuit continued at the Shri Ram Centre Repertory in New Delhi, where he further refined his craft under the guidance of accomplished directors. Immersed in different production processes, he gained invaluable insights and new-found confidence in his abilities.

Describing his experience, he says, "After coming here, I got to work with different directors, which exposed me to different methods of production."

His collaborations with directors like Vikas Bahl and Sanjay Leela Bhansali has provided invaluable learning experiences, allowing him to grow as an artiste.

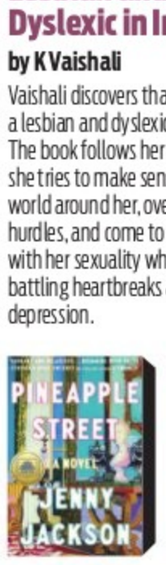
As Pandey's acting repertoire continues to expand, he has recently embarked on a new venture in the Malayalam film industry. His forthcoming project, *Kannur Squad*, sees him starring alongside actor Mammootty. While details about the film are still unfolding, Pandey's excitement is palpable. He only shares glimpses of his character, Pawan Bhaiyya, a Hindi-speaking villager whose vital information becomes the focal point of an investigative thriller, and says the rest will unfold with time.

BOOK NOOK

Homeless: Growing up Lesbian and Dyslexic in India

by K Vaishali

Vaishali discovers that she's a lesbian and dyslexic at 20. The book follows her life as she tries to make sense of the world around her, overcome hurdles, and come to terms with her sexuality while battling heartbreaks and depression.



Pineapple Street

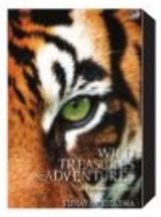
By Jenny Jackson

It is about the peculiar unknowability of someone else's family, the miles between the haves and have-nots, and the insanity of first love, all wrapped in a deliciously funny, sharply observed debut of family, love, and class.

Ram c/o Anandhi

By Akhil P Darmajan

A cinematic novel set in Chennai. Sriram, from a coastal village in Alappuzha district, reaches Chennai to learn cinema and gain experience in writing novels. Unfortunately, he was greeted by a series of strange events.



Wild Treasures and Adventures: A Forester's Diary

By Sunayan Sharma

A series of thrilling episodes from the author's life as an Indian Forest Service Officer.

WHAT WHEN WHY WHERE

Vineyard Voyage

Visit a vineyard for a tour to see the origin of your wine while also enjoying an exquisite wine tasting.
WHEN: June 26, 1pm
WHERE: Rico Park, Yelahanka
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Crafted Paradise

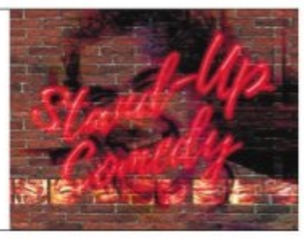
This bazaar will be displaying art and craft, furniture, jewellery, home decor and more.
WHEN: June 27, 11am
WHERE: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Kumarakrupa Road
DETAILS: allevents.in

Pottery Time

Join a pottery workshop to have an immersive experience and learn a new skill while creating your own masterpiece.
WHEN: June 26, 2pm
WHERE: Wheel and Potter Pottery Studio, Srinivasa Nagar **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com

NO FILTER

Go to an uncensored comedy night where you can laugh until you cry with your friends.
WHEN: June 26, 8.30pm **WHERE:** Marcopolo Cafe, Koramangala **DETAILS:** bookmyshow.com



Ascending Dawn

Join a sunrise trek with your family or friends to experience a place of devotion and breathtaking views. **WHEN:** June 26, 11pm
WHERE: Meeting Point Gopalan Arcade, Mysore Road
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

Classical Escapade

Join dancer Anurada Vikranth's Bharatanatyam workshop, as part of a dance festival for dancers who have over 6 years of experience.
WHEN: July 8, 9.30am
WHERE: Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram **CALL:** 9844191888

TELLING UNTOLD STORIES

Watch a Kannada solo-act play *Sakubai*, that dives into the inner life of a housemaid and all her experiences in society. **WHEN:** June 27, 7.30pm
WHERE: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar
DETAILS: bookmyshow.com

NUMBER GAME

A ring with 24,679 diamonds that holds the Guinness World Records for the most diamonds set in one ring, was displayed at a mall recently| NAGARAJA GADEKAL

QUICK FIX

KOREAN CUCUMBER SALAD

Contributed by **Rhea Prashanth**, Bengaluru

INGREDIENTS

- **Chilli flakes:** 1 tsp
- **Soy:** 2 tbsp
- **Cucumber:** 2
- **Sugar:** 1 tsp
- **Sesame oil:** 2 tsp
- **Sesame seeds:** 2 tsp
- **Finely minced garlic:** 1

METHOD

- Cut the cucumber into long strips or rounds.
- Add all the ingredients mentioned above.
- Coat the cucumber with this mixture.
- Top it off with more sesame seeds if required.

What's cooking in your kitchen?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at bengalurucityexpress@gmail.com

FIT BIT

VIRASANA 1

(HERO POSE 1)

This intermediate level, sitting variation is a relaxing pose for the legs that stretches the knees, thighs, and ankle, removing the stiffness of these areas. Regular practice when performed without any distraction may help you embrace your spiritual side.

STEPS

- Start in Dandasana (Staff Pose) with a few breaths.
- Inhale and fold your right knee back to the side of your right buttock. Similarly, fold the left knee back and place it to the side of the left buttock.
- Keep ankles externally rotated, facing behind. Sit between the legs and maintain body balance.
- This is Wide Hero Pose. Then, bring your knees closer to go to Hero Pose from the Wide Hero Pose.
- It would be challenging initially and tough to balance at the knees. With practise it becomes easier. Feel the pressure at the ankles and the knees now.
- Bring the knees closer, resting your arms on the thigh.
- Heels touch the outer side of the upper thighs and buttocks. Knees touch each other.
- Now, sit in the Hero Pose and stay here for at least 30 seconds. You can slowly increase the time.
- To release, exhale, bring legs upfront one after another to reach Dandasana.
- Sit with your legs stretched for a while and relax.
- You can also shake your legs to feel more comfortable.

BENEFITS

- Improves circulation in and relieves tired legs.
- Strengthens foot arches, relieving flat feet.
- Improves digestion and relieves gas.
- Helps relieve the symptoms of menopause.
- Improves posture.
- Reduces swelling of the legs during pregnancy (through the second trimester).
- Therapeutic for asthma and high blood pressure.
- Activates Sacral and Solar Plexus Chakras and similarly, stimulates the Root Chakra.
- Useful in meditation and relieves leg tiredness.
- Useful in Asthma and high blood pressure.
- It relaxes the legs.

LIMITATIONS

People suffering from any problem in heart, thigh, ankle, leg, back, neck or joint pain, migraine or spinal disorders avoid this.

If you have chronic pain, inflammation, a recent hip or knee injury or disc hernia, avoid this.

By N. Elumalai, PhD Scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

PONNIYAN SELVAN 2 (Tamil)

The historical fantasy drama is based on a novel by Kalki. Arulmozhi Varman continues on his quest to become Rajaraja I, the greatest ruler of south India's historic Chola empire.

Cast: Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Chiyaan Vikram, Karthi, Jayam Ravi

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video

KUDIMAHAAN (Tamil)

The comic film revolves around a teetotaller. How a unique health problem affects his life forms the rest of the story.

Cast: Vijay Sivan, Chandini Tamilarasan, Suresh Chakravarth

- **Watch on:** Amazon

DASARA (Telugu)

Set in the backdrop of Singareni coal mines near Godavarikhani of Telangana.

Cast: Nani, Keerthy Suresh, Shine Tom Chacko

- **Watch on:** Netflix

SRI BALAJI PHOTO STUDIO (Kannada)

The film follows the life of a photographer and his emotional connection with the studio. How he tries to stay updated with the digital world and how a situation brings a turn in his life, forms the story.

Cast : Rajesh Dhruva, Ravi Salian, Shishir Shastry

- **Watch on:** MX Player

PACHUVUM ATHBHUTHA VILAKUM (Malayalam)

Pachu, a middle-class Malayali who runs an Ayurveda pharmacy in Mumbai, travels to Kerala for an errand. The series of events that follow completely changes the course of Pachu's life.

Cast : Fahadh Faasil, Anjana Jayaprakash, Viji Venkatesh

- **Watch on :** Amazon Prime Video

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

ANNI MANCHI SAKUNAMULE (Telugu)

The story is set in Victoriapuram. Owing to unexpected confusion at a hospital, the babies are interchanged by the nurses. Many years later, the grown-up kids become inseparable buddies with contrasting ambitions.

Cast: Santosh Sobhan, Malvika Nair, Rajendra Prasad, Rao Ramesh

- **Watch on :** Amazon Prime Video

BLOODY DADDY (Hindi)

A messed up, tenacious man faces off against cops and crime lords to save the one relationship that matters to him.

Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Ronit Roy, Sanjay Kapoor, Diana Penty

- **Watch on:** JioCinema

FOREIGN

BLACK MIRROR (English, series)

In an abstrusely dystopian future, several individuals grapple with the manipulative effects of cutting edge technology in their personal lives and behaviours.

Cast: Salma Hayek, Annie Murphy

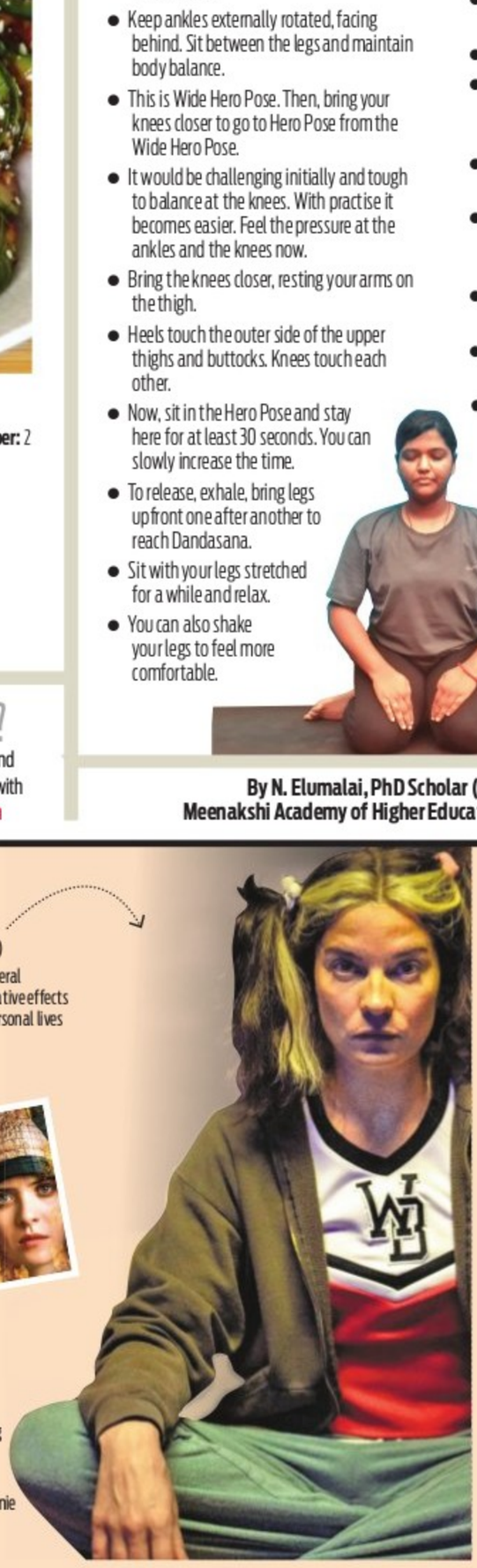
- **Watch on:** Netflix

BABYLON BERLIN (German, series)

Inspector Gereon Rath is transferred from Cologne to Berlin for a mission, where he unravels dark secrets during his investigation of a highly confidential racket of pornography.

Cast: Liv Lisa Fries, Volker Bruch, Leonie Benesch

- **Watch on:** Amazon Prime Video



THE LYING LIFE OF ADULTS (Italian, series)

Giovanna navigates her passage from childhood into adolescence as she experiences the different sides of Naples during the 1990s.

Cast: Giordana Marengo, Pina Turco, Valeria Golino

- **Watch on:** Netflix

THE BEAR (English, series)

A young chef from the fine dining world returns to Chicago to run his family's sandwich shop.

Cast: Jeremy Allen White, Ayo Edebiri, Abby Elliot

- **Watch on:** Disney+ Hotstar

SUBSCRIPTION	
Netflix :	₹199/month
Prime Video:	₹299/month
MX Player:	₹499/year
Disney+Hotstar:	₹899/year
Lionsgate Play:	₹699/year
Jio Cinema:	₹999/year
ZEE5 :	₹699/year
SONY LIV:	₹299/month

RAIN CHECK

This rainy season, *CE* looks into how to care for your vehicles for a hassle-free journey

LEKSHMI C PILLAI

TYRES The condition of the tyres is very important in monsoon driving. Many 'occasional drivers' take them for granted. 'This bald tyre is enough, as my drive is very short' is the common attitude. But this can be fatal on a rainy day.

Tyre treads (the grooves on the tyre surface) play an important role in providing grip. The treads act as channels to disperse water and ensure optimal contact between the rubber and the road. Worn tyres or bald tyres will not be able to displace water and will be prone to aquaplaning (sliding over the surface of the water).

Hence, ensure tread depth is at least 2mm. Most tyres will have tread wear indicators – small cross ribs set in the main grooves, about 1.5 to 2mm in height. Once the tyre surface is level with these ribs, it's time to replace the tyre.

Flooded streets

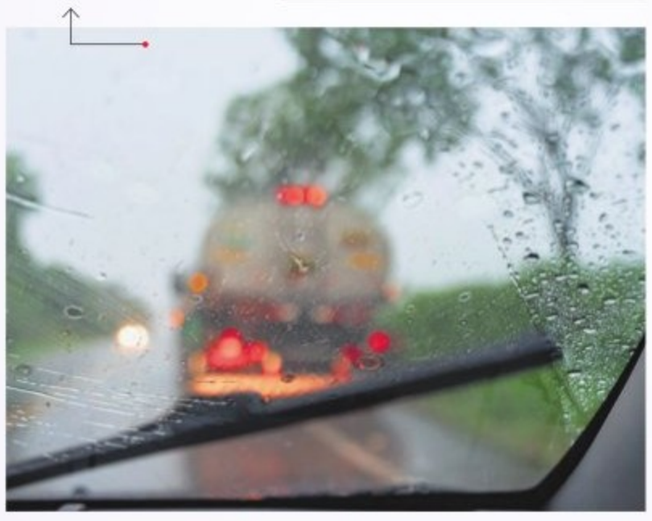
Rains are very unpredictable now and there may be times you are forced to travel through a waterlogged street. Before you start, it's best to assess the depth of the water by looking at the vehicles in front of you. Move only if it seems safe. If you move, stick to a lower gear, preferably first gear, and keep the engine RPM up. This will prevent water from entering the exhaust.

WIPER

Wiper gets the lowest care from car owners. We think of wiper conditions only when our vision becomes hampered. So, make sure your wiper blades are clean. Also, top-up on the wiper washer fluid to clean mud splashes and sprays from the vehicles passing by.

BRAKES

Properly working brakes become particularly important during monsoon, as the stopping distance of vehicles tends to increase in the wet. When driving during heavy rains or just after driving through large puddles, make sure you dry the brake discs by lightly tapping the pedals intermittently.

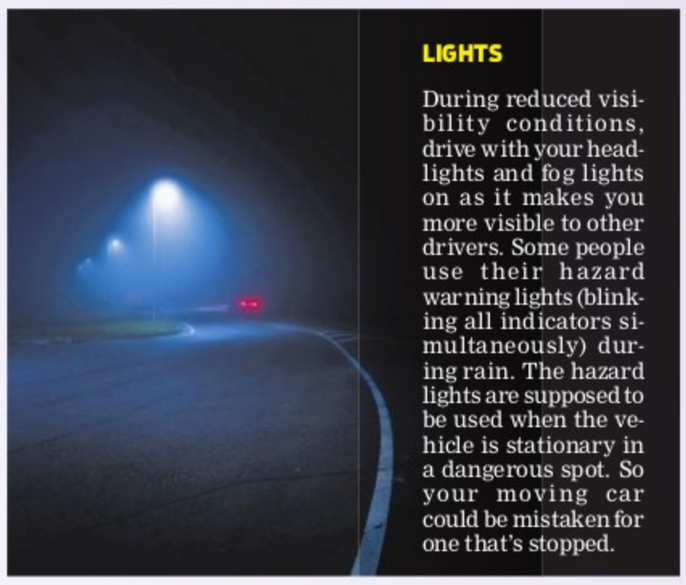


MONSOON is a blessing. Or, one can even say that the monsoon comes as a result of the prayers of millions. At the same time, the season demands extra care in every routine activity.

When we walk, when we travel, and when we drive... The rainy season demands special attention to every small thing.

Since rain makes our roads extremely vulnerable – water logging, deceiving potholes, lack of visibility, slippery surfaces – danger lurks in every corner. Add to that irresponsible driving, accidents are bound to happen.

So this monsoon, let's look at all the precautions one needs to take for a safe journey.



LIGHTS

During reduced visibility conditions, drive with your headlights and fog lights on as it makes you more visible to other drivers. Some people use their hazard warning lights (blinking all indicators simultaneously) during rain. The hazard lights are supposed to be used when the vehicle is stationary in a dangerous spot. So your moving car could be mistaken for one that's stopped.

SPEED & CONTROL

Braking distance increases on wet surfaces. So it's best to keep a larger distance from the vehicle in front and speed in check. This gives you adequate room to brake and react. It will also provide you with a better view of the potholes, debris, mud and water on the road ahead.

When driving in rainy weather, we face the issue of aquaplaning or hydroplaning. A layer of water forms between the wheel and the road. This condition can be very dangerous as the vehicle can move side-wards as if our control on brakes and steering has gone.

Hold the steering wheel straight and gradually ease your foot off the accelerator. As you slow down, you should be able to feel your wheels gaining traction and you'll get back control. Make slow and steady movements of the steering wheel and gently use your brakes. If your car has cruise control, switch this off when driving in wet conditions.

FUEL, FOOD AND SAFETY KIT

There is a greater chance of getting stuck in a traffic jam during the monsoon season. This means, there must be enough fuel. Keep some water and snacks handy. Tyre puncture kit, towel, torch, etc, can also come in handy.

The writer is a freelance auto expert who hosts TV shows and anchors the YouTube channel 'CARKADUVA'

XPRESS HIGHWAY
FORTNIGHTLY SEGMENT ON WHAT'S REVVING UP IN THE AUTOMOTIVE SECTOR

NEW RELEASES

Upgraded HOP OXO e-bike

HOP OXO, an indigenous electric bike, is integrated with a wide array of prominent features and a five-inch Advance Information Display with an IP67 rating for protection against dust, dirt and water splashes while ensuring seamless functioning. OXO works on a 72 V architecture with a 6,200-watt peak power motor delivering 200Nm of wheel torque. OXO has three ride modes (eco, power and sport) with an additional turbo mode for OXO X. HOP OXO X has a top speed of 90kmph in Turbo mode and accelerates from 0-40km in just 4 seconds. Powered by an advanced lithium-ion battery with smart BMS and 811 NMC cells, OXO has a 3.75KWh battery pack delivering an industry-leading real range of 150km per charge. Upgraded HOP OXO is priced at ₹1.48 lakh (ex-showroom without subsidy).

All new SHINE 125

Honda Motorcycle & Scooter India launched the new OBD2-compliant Shine 125. The vehicle is priced at ₹79,800 (ex-showroom Delhi). At the heart of Shine 125 ticks BSVI OBD2 compliant Honda's 125cc PGM-FI engine with Enhanced Smart Power. The motor ensures a quick, silent, jolt-free start. It comes with a bold front visor with chrome garnish, premium chrome side covers, graphics and an attractive chrome muffler cover. It has a simple meter design, a smart tail lamp and trendy black alloys. Shine 125 is available in two variants — Drum & Disc.

Luxury meets muscle

India's largest luxury carmaker Mercedes-Benz India has launched the iconic and timeless automotive icon, the SL, in its most advanced AMG SL 55 4MATIC+ roadster version. The new Mercedes-AMG SL combines the sportiness of the original with the unique luxury and technological excellence that characterise modern Mercedes-Benz models. The SL 55 4MATIC+ features a Petrol V8 engine with twin turbochargers; produces 700Nm torque and generates 350kW with a top speed of 295km/h. The luxurious roadster features the return of the classic soft top. The AMG SL 55 4MATIC+ pricing starts from ₹2.35 cr (All-India ex-showroom).

CITY READ

Session on importance of investing young held in city

Millennium Mams', an organisation which helps women with financial literacy, investments portfolio building and entrepreneurship recently held a session in the city with their founder-mentor **Bishnu Dhanuka**. Here, he emphasised the importance of investing from a young age. "India with its young and vibrant population is emerging as a beacon of opportunity in the global investment landscape," said Dhanuka, adding, "The youth should start investing right from their college days. They should learn the philosophy of Warren Buffett and try and create big wealth. Today's generation is bright, but are always in a hurry. They don't give the required time for investment."

Members of yoga training samiti meet legislators, express grievances

Hundreds of trainers from Sri Patanjali Yoga Training Samiti met with M Krishnappa, and Priya Krishna, MLAs of Vijaynagar and Govindraaj Nagar constituencies, respectively, on June 24. The individuals expressed their grievances on various issues. Following a positive response from the MLAs, the trainers expressed their gratitude for the latter's approach towards addressing their issues.

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CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MADHUSUDHAN .H.N,** S/o H.P. Nagaraju, aged about 28 years, R/at No. 27, 6th Cross, 1st Main, J.C. Nagar, Mahalakshmipuram, Mahalakshmipuram Layout, Bengalur North, Bengaluru, do hereby declare that my correct name is **MADHUSUDHAN .H.N** but in my Aadhar Card by oversight my name is mentioned as **MADHASUDHAN .H.N** instead of **MADHUSUDHAN .H.N,** vide affidavit dated 13-06-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **SUMITHRA .N** at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Sri. Thummar Sanjay Kumar,** S/o Ramniklal Thummar, aged about 40 years, No.E-609, Platinum City, HMT Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-28.

I submit that **MONIT,** is my son, as per Hindu Customs sur name of my son is not added, hence I decided to add surname of my family to my son's name as below

I have changed my Son's name from **"MONIT "** to **"MONIT THUMMAR"** vide Affidavit Dated: **24/06/2023** sworn to before **K.V.Bachi Reddy** Advocate & Notary at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mrs. M. VARSHA RANI,** W/o. Mr. Shivaji M., Aged about 22 years, Residing at No. 945, 1st Floor, 1st Main, 1st Cross, Seethappa Layout, Bangalore North, R.T. Nagar Post, Benglauru - 560 032, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **KANCHARLA RANI** to **M. VARSHA RANI** vide affidavit dated 29.12.2021 sworn to before Leela, Advocate & Notary Public, Govt. of India, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Geetanjali Ravindranata Thaly, aged about 63 years, W/o Ravindra Janardan Thaly, R/at C-1401, Sumadhura lake Breeze, Varthur Main Road, Opposite Mainland China, Siddapura, Bengaluru – 560066, Karnataka, India, I have changed my name from 'Geetanjali Ravindranata Thaly' to **Geetanjali Ravindra Thaly.** Vide affidavit dated 24.06.2023 Sworn before **Indira S.S,** Advocate & Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

We, Smt. Seema D. Naik, W/o. Priyaranjan A. V., aged about 33 years and Sri. Priyaranjan A.V., S/o. A Venkatappa, Aged about 42 years, Residing at No. 203, Vision Nest Apartment, Behind Vishal Mega Mart, Kasavanahalli - 560 035, have changed our daughter's name from **Adrithi Priyaranjan** to **Deeya Priyaranjan,** vide affidavit dated 20/6/2023 sworn to before Anitha Bai advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

We 1) Mr. SATHEESHA H.R and
2) Mrs. SARITHA S.V. both are residents of No. 010, V.S.Cozy Apartments, 24th Main, 18th Cross, J.P.Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore-560078
we have changed our Son's name from
DRUVA to DHRUVA S
vide affidavit dated 23.06.2023
sworn before Advocate and Notary
Mahesh .J.J, Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **PAVAN TEJ C.M. son of Chandra Mohan K.H., aged about 27 years,** residing at No.520, 9th Main, RPC Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru-560 040, have changed my name to **PAWAN TEJ C.M** for all purposes. vide affidavit dated 06.06.2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary Lakshminarayana Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SUMAL SRI,** D/O. P. B. SUNDAR & N.K. KOMALA DEVI, Aged about 25 years, Residing at Door No. 17, Himagiri Lakeview Residency, J.P. Nagar, 8th Phase, Bengaluru 560 076, have changed my name from **SUMAL SRI to SUMAL SRI SUNDAR** (SURNAME IS SUNDAR) sweared an Affidavit before the Hon'ble Judge of **VII A.C.M.M Court Bengaluru** on 23.06.2023.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **SHARIEF AHMED SIDDIQE** S/o Mohammed Ismail Siddiqe, R/at No. 9/2, Mothinagara, Kalasipalya, Bengaluru-560002, have changed my name to **SHAREEF AHAMAD,** vide affidavit dated 24-06-2023 before Notary **S.I. BALAGURU,** Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **CHINNEM RAGHU RAMUDU,** residing at No.14, 1st A Main, Somanna Garden Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore - 560097 have changed my family members names as follows:

1. **C. AKSHAY** to **AKSHAY CHINNEM.**
2. **C SUREKHA RAGHU RAMUDU** to **SUREKHA RAGHU RAMUDU CHINNEM**
3. **RAGHU RAMUDU CHINNEM** to **CHINNEM RAGHU RAMUDU.**

vide affidavit dated 24/06/2023, sworn before Notary K C PEMMAIAH, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **DEEPAK PURANIK** R/at Flat No. 015, B Block, NR Royal Manor, Srirampura Bengaluru - 560064 Karnataka India. Changed my Son's name from **ATHARV DEEPAK PURANIK** to **ATHARV PURANIK** vide affidavit dated 22/06/2023 sworn before notary S.R. Paramashivaiah Reg No.: 10082 Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Neelay Ravindranata Thaly, aged about 37 years, S/o Mr. Ravindra Janardan Thaly and Mrs. Geetanjali Ravindra Thaly, R/at C-704, Sumadhura lake Breeze, Varthur Main Road, Opposite Mainland China, Siddapura, Thubarahalli, Bengaluru – 560066, Karnataka, India, I have changed my name from Neelay Ravindranata Thaly to **Neelay Ravindra Thaly.** Vide affidavit dated 24.06.2023 Sworn before **Indira S.S,** Advocate & Notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LENIN S/o Joseph S, aged about 34 years Residing at No. 18, Samudrikaa Enclave, Kyalasanahalli, Kothanur, Bengaluru-560077, have changed my name from **Lenin** to **Lenin Joseph,** vide affidavit dated 22/6/2023 sworn to before R.Sulakshana advocate and notary Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **MALLIKARJUN,** Aged about 40 years, S/o. Baswaraj, residing at No. 363/16, Padmabasava Nilaya, Sai Colony, Bidar Road, Maniknagar, Humnabad - 585353, have changed my name to **MALLIKARJUN BELAMAGI** for all purposes. vide affidavit dated 24.06.2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary Mohammed Hussain .K Bangalore

CHANGE OF NAME

We Mr. SHREYAS SARANGAN and Mrs AARTHI SHREYAS, both are residing at No.206, SLV Sannidhi 19th Main, 36th Cross, 5th Block, Near Reliance Fresh, HBR Layout Hennur, Bangalore 560043. we have changed our Minor son's name from **PARANKUSAN to PARANKUSAN SHREYAS** vide affidavit dated 20.06.2023 sworn before Advocate and Notary Uday Kumar .K, Bangalore

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DANISH SAIT, NAVEEN SHANKAR GET READY FOR A GAME OF *KIRIK'ET 11*

The film bankrolled by KRG Studios will be helmed by Suman Kumar

A SHARADHAA

Naveen Shankar

Danish Sait

KRG Studios, now in their 4th year in the industry, have announced their 6th project titled *Kirik'et' 11*. Written by Manoj Kumar Kalvanan, this film revolves around cricket and marks the Kannada debut of director Suman Kumar, known for his work in *The Family Man* and *Farzi*. He is also directing Keerthy Suresh's upcoming Tamil film, *Raghu Thata*. The announcement of the project and title coincides with the 40th anniversary of India's World Cup victory.

"*Kirik'et' 11* explores the lives of a group of individuals who face challenging circumstances but find redemption through their shared passion for cricket. The film aims to capture the spirit and enthusiasm that surrounds the game.

With Vasuki Vaibhav as the music director, the film jointly produced by Karthik Gowda and Yogi G Raj will go on floors during the World Cup 2023. Karthik Gowda, speaking to *CE*, shared how Manoj Kumar Kalvanan, also the dialogue writer for *Raghu Thata*, approached them with the story. "Director Suman Kumar saw an opportunity to bring this story to Kannada. Currently, the team is working on the screenplay and dialogues," says Karthik, who also expressed excitement about the film's backdrop and casting process. "It was the team's decision to cast Danish Sait and Naveen Shankar, two unique actors who can bring life to the interesting roles. The remaining cast will be finalised and announced before the shooting begins."

This year has brought about a shift in my career choices

An excited Danish Sait, says, "This year has brought about a shift in my career choices compared to previous years. I have been consciously exploring different subjects and collaborating with diverse individuals in the film industry. While I have immense love and gratitude for my friends, I decided to break away from the familiar and embrace new opportunities. As a result, I recently worked on a series for Netflix with director Hansal Mehta and completed shooting for my debut Malayalam film (*Malaikotai Vaaliban*), directed by Lijo Jose and starring Mohanlal. *Kirik et 11* will be my next venture, allowing me to collaborate with an interesting team, including director Suman Kumar and KRG Studios for the first time.

Kirik'et 11 will be a valuable addition to my versatile graph

Naveen is equally thrilled about his new project, *Kirik'et'11*, stating that it will be a valuable addition to his versatile graph. He mentions that this film explores a fresh genre, and the role he portrays is in stark contrast to his previous films. "The subject of the film instantly captured my interest, as the essence of the story was compelling and impossible to reject. Having previously collaborated with the production house for *Hoysala*, they understood which role would suit me best. The character I portray in *Kirik'et'11* gives me a unique arc, and the film itself is an experimental endeavor, coming at the right time for me," says Naveen.

BANGALORE BOYS GEARS UP FOR RELEASE THIS WEEK

CE FEATURES

A still from *Bangalore Boys*

BANGALORE Boys is all set to hit theatres on June 30. Ahead of the release, the makers have unveiled a new song from the film. What makes it even more interesting is that the peppy track has comedy actor Chikkanna lending his voice. The track titled *Tapas* has witty lyrics penned by Arasu Antare and music by Dharmavish. This song humorously captures the struggles faced by software professionals.

While Gurudatha Ganige is the creative director, *Bangalore Boys* is helmed by Ravi Sriram and Dr Srinivas. The film is produced by Vikram KY under the V Movie Makers banner, and Prashanth Rao Puram overseeing the production aspects. The plot revolves around the journey of a last bencher, who is often considered a misfit, as he defies all odds to pursue his dreams. *Bangalore Boys* showcases the spirit of determination and triumph over adversity.

The film stars Abhishek Das, Sachin Cheluvarayaswamy, Chandan Achar, and Rohit in the lead roles, while actors, Pragya Nayan, Vainidhi Jagdish, Jayashree Achar, and Soni contribute to the ensemble cast. Some of the other actors playing pivotal roles include Chikkanna, Umesh, PD Satish, and Mohan Juneja.

Kiran Raj dons all-new avatar for *Ronny*

CE FEATURES

Kiran Raj

KIRAN Raj, who became a household name with the popular television serial, *Kannadati*, is raring to make a mark on the silver screen too. While he has already acted in a few films, his upcoming project, *Ronny*, is generating considerable buzz for all the right reasons. Kiran has undergone a remarkable transformation for this role in the gangster drama, directed by Gurutej Shetty. The film blends action, commercial elements, and a compelling storyline with emotional themes that the whole family can enjoy.

Interestingly, during a visit to Dubai, Kiran made a daring move by skydiving from an altitude of 13,000 feet to unveil the film's title, *Ronny*, which is currently in the filming stage. The makers have announced the release of a teaser on July 5, coinciding with the actor's birthday. *Ronny* boasts an ensemble cast including Ravi Shankar, Miko Nagaraj, B. Suresh, Mandya Ramesh, Sujay Shastri, and Dharmana Kaduru. Additionally, the film features Samiksha, Apoorva, and Radya as the three heroines. While Raghavendra B Kolar is in charge of cinematography, Manikanth Kadri and Sachin Basrur take care of the background score and music, respectively.

Ronny marks the debut production venture of Chandrakant Pujari and Umesh Hegde's Star Creation banner. The producers are looking for a Dec release.

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Secretary & Principal
Bhagyalakshmi M S
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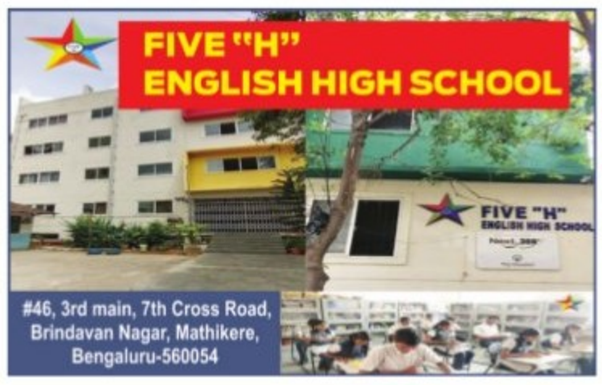
Hongasandra Tent, Opp. Venu Hospital, Begur Main Road, Hongasandra, Bangalore-560068, Contact: 080-41440530


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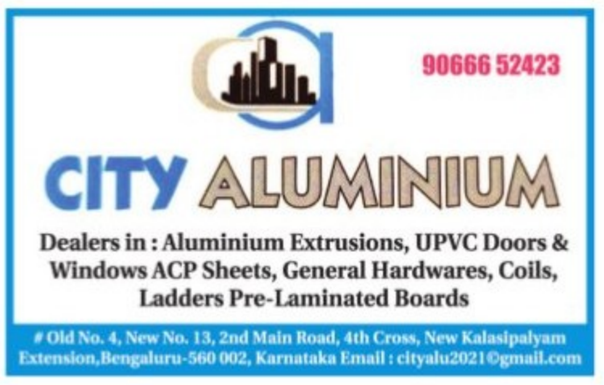
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